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THE
Country Gentleman
AND
FARMER'S
MONTHLY DIRECTOR.

CONTAINING

Necessary Instructions for the Management
and Improvement of a FARM, in every
Month of the Year.

Wherein is directed the Times and Seasons
proper for PLOUGHING and SOWING of all sorts
of Corn for Grain; the Planting and Managing of
Hops, Liquorice, Madder, Saffron, and such other
Crops as stand more than one Year on the Ground.

The Times of PLANTING and CUTTING of Coppice
or Springs of Wood, and Felling of Timber, the
Breeding and Feeding of POULTRY, RABBITS,
FISH, SWINE, and all sorts of CATTLE.

With several PARTICULARS relating to the Improvement of
BEEES, never before made publick.

By R. BRADLEY,
*Professor of Botany in the University of Cambridge,
and F. R. S.*

The Sixth Edition.

With Large ADDITIONS and IMPROVEMENTS.

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GLT OF

DANIEL B. FEARING

30 JUNE 1915

MONTHLY DIRECTOR
F. A. R. M. E. R.'S

CONFIDENTIAL

Month of the Year
and Improvement of a Farm in every
Necessary Instructions for the Management

Wherein is directed the Times and Seasons paper for Provo and for all parts of Utah for giving the names and places of all the Indians, and such other information as may be of use to the Government.

The Town of Planting, and the Town of
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W. R. T. R. A. D. E. Y.

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T O

Aaron Harrington Esq;

S I R,



OUR favourable Opinion of my former Writings, relating to the Improvement of Land, induces me to present you with the following Piece; which I have calculated, as well for the Use of those Gentlemen, who delight themselves in the Innocent and Profitable Diversions of a Country Life, as for the Benefit of the Farmer.

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AND

vi DEDICATION.

AND I am more especially prompted to lay this Work before you, as it is apparent by all your Actions, that the Interest and Advantage of your Country is your principal Study; and your Virtues and Knowledge lead you to encourage any Design, which may contribute to the Good of the Publick. To this, Sir, I may add the Satisfaction I have, of declaring in this publick manner, that I am, with the greatest Respect,

SIR,

Your most Obliged,

Humble Servant,

R. BRADLEY.



TO THE
Country Gentlemen,
AND
FARMERS,
Introductory Discourse.

BEFORE I enter upon
the Monthly Directions
contain'd in the following
Sheets, it will be necessa-
ry that I lay before my
Reader my Thoughts con-
cerning the Qualifications of a Farmer,
and the Use of a Farm.

*I consider a Farmer as a Person,
whose Business depends more upon the*

Labour of the Brain, than of the Hands ; that is, his Contrivance and Wariness will prove much more beneficial to him, than the working Part. This is evidenced by Instances to be met with every where. We find some Farmers rise early, and go to bed late, and make themselves Slaves for sixteen Hours in the four-and-twenty ; and yet, for want of Observation, and a right Judgment of the Particulars under their Care, can hardly make both Ends meet when the Year comes about, tho' they have spared both the Back and the Belly : while, on the other hand, their next Neighbours perhaps have not taken a quarter part of the Pains that they did, but have moved with Discretion and good Judgment, and saved to themselves good Fortunes, and yet have lived hospitably. 'Tis not hard Labour alone will fill the Sack ; but, in the Business of Husbandry, there must be Experience and Judgment, as well as Industry : for, consider the vast Variety the Farmer has before him ; there is the Improvement of Land by Corn, by Pulse, by Turnips, and such like Roots ; by Hops, by Liquorice, Madder, Oziers, Plantations, Fruits, Woad, Weld, Carraway, and many others of the like sort,

sort : and then by Cattle, as Kine, Sheep, Swine, Rabbits, &c. and Poultry, Pidgeons, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Pheasants, &c. and Fish, such as Carp, Tench, Pike, Pearch, &c. and by Bees. All which he ought to have a good Knowledge of ; for every one of these rightly managed, will bring a profitable Return : And if all together are order'd by a skilful Farmer, who knows how to breed and feed, as well as plough, sow, and plant, his Farm will be rich. And besides the Money he will get by his Store, he will always have an Opportunity of living in as plentiful a manner, as any Gentleman in England.

A Farmer therefore ought to be a Philosopher, to study the Nature of every Soil, and to know how to improve one sort by another ; for by such Mixtures, which are natural, Land of every kind is greatly mended, and will bring Crops in greater Health and Strength, than if the Land was to be helped with Dung ; which, if it is not well rotted, and become like Earth itself, will be apt to breed Insects, and the Canker. All heavy stiff Soils must be mended by light Soils : as Clays, by Sands, or Coal-Ashes, and such things as become light
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and open in their Parts. And, on the contrary, the light sandy Soils may be strengthen'd by Clay, or other stiff Soils, by which means those Lands which are too loose in their Parts, and have their Moisture too quickly exhaled, may be brought to such a Temper, as to retain Moisture for a good Season: And the Soils which were stiff and binding, and not capable of distributing freely their Nourishment, will now be at liberty to act freely upon Plants. Nor is this all, for the Depth of the Soil should be examin'd into, for some Plants require a great Depth of Soil; as Liquorice, Carrots, Parsnips, and suchlike, whose Roots must run deep to bring profitable Crops, while others will thrive well upon shallow Soils. And then again, we should have regard to the Situation of the Grounds; for some sorts of Plants delight in warm Places, others in Shade, some in moist Ground, others in dry Ground, some on Hills, others in low Grounds. And after all this, it must be observ'd, that every Plant requires a free Air to grow in Strength; for Experience teaches us, that where this is wanting, no Plant will prosper. A Farmer therefore should take great care in sowing and putting his Crops into
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the Ground, that he does not sow or plant too thick; but consider when he is about such Works, what Space each Plant will fill when it comes to its full Growth, and allow a due distance for every one. When this Care or Judgment is wanting in the sowing of Corn, or Turnips, or setting of Beans, &c. we as surely find, that our Corn is weak and thin in the Ear; and our Turnips, unless they are set at due Distances with an Hough, will not thrive in their Roots: And the Beans which are planted too thick, will shoot only into barren Stalks. So in the fencing or inclosing of Land, it is necessary to make our Fields of a large size, if we design to plant any Timber in the Hedge-rows; for else, when the Timber grows up, it would stifle the Air: and whatever Plants were to grow in a small Field thus fenced, would grow tall and weak, and have their Juices undigested. 'Tis therefore adviseable to thin the tall Trees in the Fences of small Fields, to let in the Air and Sun, for the Welfare of such Plants as grow in it; for even common Grass will suffer in a Field too thickly enclosed. These things being understood, it is in the next place necessary for a Farmer to be careful in
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destroying of Weeds ; for if they once get a head, which they will soon do, if we let them stand till the Seed is ripe, it will be difficult to root them out of the Ground ; but if we pull or cut them up when they first appear, they may be easily conquer'd : and especially those which bear feather'd or winged Seed, should be early taken care of, for if they happen to be only in Flower, when we pull or cut them up, the Seeds will ripen, altho' the Plants are quite void of Earth, and the least Wind will blow them over a whole Country. Of these Sorts are the Thistles, Hawkweeds, Dandelion, Groundsel, &c. But some Weeds take deep Roots in the Earth, and if you cut them up, they will soon spring again ; such is the Bindweed, Mallow, Dandelion, and some others : and in such a Case we must hough them often in the time of their growth, which I find to be the best way of destroying them. But if it happens that our Ground is over-run chiefly with Mallows, they may be destroy'd by pouring Brine of Beef or Pork on them : this was experienced by Mr. Trowell, of the Temple, a curious Gentleman, whom I have often had occasion to mention for his skill in these Affairs ; and what I chiefly

chiefly admired in this Discovery was, that the Grass in the same Field where he kill'd the Mallows, was not at all disturb'd by the Brine, but seem'd to prosper the better for it. So that what is destructive to one Plant, is helpful to another; and is one Instance, that every different sort of Plant draws a different sort of nourishment from the Earth. But there are many others mention'd in my Works, which are enough to satisfy both the Farmer and Gardener of the Necessity of changing Crops to keep Ground in heart; and this I esteem one of the greatest Secrets in Husbandry, and ought to be carefully considered by the Farmer: for, by frequent change of Crops, the Ground, if it be naturally stiff, will be render'd more open in its Parts by often Ploughing, and so become better prepared for Vegetation; but letting such Sort of Land lie fallow for a Year, makes it bind, and at the plowing Season rise in great Clods. But the common Way with some Farmers is to fallow, twy-fallow, and try-fallow, as they call it, in the space of one Year; so that then the Ground is three times plow'd in a Year, which opens its Parts and makes it fine, without doubt: but I see no reason why Ground should lie idle, when it

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is certain that two Crops might be gathered from it in that time, and the Ground would not be the worse for it; if they were so discreetly chosen, that one was of a very different kind from another, the Ground would certainly be the better for it. For I find by experience, that if such Crops are sown, as are full of fibrous Roots, such Roots greatly help to open the Parts of Ground inclining to too much stiffness; and if such Crops as carry a fat Moisture in them happen to be sown upon light sandy Grounds, the plowing into such Land the Offals of such Crops help to make that Land fertile; and there is no other Soil in the World but the stiff and the light, nor any other Plants grow upon either, but such as have fibrous Roots to open the stiff Soil, or Leaves or Roots of such substance as will help to bind the light or loose Soil. So that these extremes are easily brought to a medium, and the two Crops which are generally cultivated in a Year, are commonly of both the Sorts I mention; such as Pease and Turnips, or Barley and Turnips, for the two last will do as well as the first.

ANOTHER thing which a Farmer ought to consider, is the draining of his
wet

wet Lands, and the watering of his dry Lands, for these are two very necessary Things in Farming; for too much wet is hurtful to Ground for many Things, and Grass-grounds ought to have the benefit of Water sometimes to mend them. The command of Water is beneficial; if it is too much, carry it off by Drains, if there is any Fall in the Ground; and if there is too little, make Reservoirs for it in the upper Lands, if you have any, to dispense it at pleasure on the lower Grounds: but if there is no Fall, or Opportunity of carrying off the Water from such Land, then appoint such Plants for it as love Water or Moisture: and, on the other hand, chuse such Plants as are proper for your upper dry Lands, provided they are such as will not hold Water.

IN the next place it is necessary for a Farmer, above all Men, to learn to judge of what Weather will happen, that he may the better guess at the proper Times for cutting his Hay, or reaping his Corn; therefore the best Advice I can give, is to recommend him to the Use of those Instruments which will give him notice of approaching wet or dry Weather, such as the Barometer, Hygrometer,

*meter, &c. which are prepared by Mr. Fowler, Mathematical Instrument-maker, in Swithin's-Alley, near the Royal-Exchange, with the greatest Exactness : a little use of these Instruments will give a Farmer so much Fore-knowledge of the Weather, as may save him many a Crop, and save him Money and Trouble into the bargain. In the cropping or stocking of a Farm, there should always be a Regard to the Markets ; that is, whether fed Cattle, or milch'd Kine, or Corn, or what other thing will be receiv'd best at the Markets nearest at hand ; and to cultivate such only as will be the least expensive in Carriage : for if we were to cultivate any thing of good Value in itself, and there was not a Market for it, we might account it a dead Commodity, and our Expence and Labour would be thrown away : but when a Farmer has consider'd well what his Land will produce, and what the Markets will take off, then he may expect the reward due to his Labour and Industry. Such a Man is worthy to be a Farmer, and his Philosophy and Policy may put him upon the same footing with one of the greatest among the antient Philosophers, who became one of the richest Men in his Time, by knowing what Commodities were
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the most in esteem, and by supplying himself with such as would bring him the most advantage. But besides this, a discreet Farmer may, by Observation, be capable of judging a long time beforehand, whether there will be a plenty or scarcity of Fruits, and accordingly may buy in, or sell out, at he finds it will be for his advantage.

SOME Farmers who are dealers in Orchard-Fruits, make very good advantage by buying Orchards, even before the Buds begin to open; for they may then as well judge what Bloom there will be, as if they were to see the Blossoms open; so much difference is there between the Fruit-Buds and the Leaf-Buds. But there is one thing more which may be observ'd in the stocking of a Farm, and that is with regard to Cattle and Poultry; for we may have too many or too few of them. If we have too many, they starve one another; and if we have too few, we are losers. Again, we are to remark, that on a grazing Farm, Poultry is no way profitable, for then you must buy Meat for them; but the Farms, which consist chiefly of Arable Land, feed Fowls with little Expence: they will live upon the Offals of the Barn-Door, which

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without them would be lost. But as for Water-Fowls, such as Ducks and Geese, if you have Water for them, they will find Food enough. So where there is a large Dairy, a Farmer ought to keep a large Herd of Swine, and more especially if he has the Benefit of Woods, which afford Mast and Acorns; but an arable Farm must never be without them: but when to buy them in for fattening, or sell them off, depends upon the Skill of the Farmer.

FISH-PONDS are also very advantageous, if they lie near good Markets, and that they are carefully managed, as I have directed in the following Sheets: But these I don't make necessary for a Farmer, unless where an Estate is full of Springs; and in such a case, Ponds will help to drain the Land, and serve as Reservoirs to water the Grass-Grounds upon occasion; and where such Reservoirs are, it is adviseable to have Fish: but we must not over-stock them, if we expect them to thrive well.

AS for what I mention now and then in the following Papers, concerning the breeding of Pheasants, Partridges, Hares, and Rabbits, I intended these Memorandums

randums chiefly for Country Gentlemen, that they may want nothing about them that may contribute to the Pleasure and Profit of a Country Life. The Education of these things are neither expensive, or any great trouble: And what I have mention'd besides, which are the necessary Attendants of a Farm, together with what may be had from a good Garden, I doubt not will be sufficient to save a large Family a considerable Expence, and afford them likewise a great deal of Satisfaction. The Rabbits especially to be bred in the artificial Warren, which I treat of in the following Piece, will make a considerable Article of Profit, as well from the Flesh of the Rabbits, as by their Skins: but as the Particulars there relate chiefly to the feeding part, I shall here offer a Word or two concerning the Situation and Structure of such a Warren. The Situation should be dry, and lie open to a free Air, and the Morning-Sun, if possible: And as to the Structure of it, we will suppose a Rod or two of Ground to be employ'd for it, paved at the bottom with Bricks, or square Tiles, and a Wall to enclose it, about three Foot high, with Pallisades upon it. Against this Wall on the inside, make Cells for the Rabbits about fourteen

Inches wide, two Foot long, and about fourteen Inches high, to be cover'd with Doors to open upon Hinges, and to lock down at pleasure; and over them a Covering of feather-edged Boards, to carry off the Wet, and to move upon Hinges. Every Cell must have an opening towards the Warren, for the Rabbits to run in and out at pleasure. And of these there may be about thirty in a Warren of two Rods of Ground; but the Bucks must not have the liberty of running about, for they will destroy the young ones. The best way is to chain a couple of them in the Shed, or Feeding-place, which must be cover'd, to keep the Meat from the Wet. One of these well managed, will bring in a good return of Money, and be of great use to a Family; and the Rabbits eat as well as any wild Rabbits from the best natural Warren.

BT way of Conclusion, I may observe, that the following Directions I have taken from Practice, and, I doubt not, will answer the End of the Farmer, and such Gentlemen who take Delight in a Country Life; and I am the more persuaded, that they will prove satisfactory, having given my Reader in this Work many new Things, which I have but lately

lately discover'd in my Business of Viewing and Improving Estates.

AS to the Books lately compiled concerning Husbandry and Gardening, I can say but little to them ; for as they are crouded with particulars taken from Mr. Evelyn, Mr. Mortimer, and my own Works, I cannot pay the Authors any Compliment, unless it is, that they are faithful Transcribers.



Introductory Discourse.
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Compendious, and it is that they are
designed to instruct.

The best
of them is a sample of them in the
of them, which will be
of great use to the
Rabbit
from
the best



It may be concluded, I may observe,
that the following Directions I have
given from my own experience, and
will assist the Reader in the
of Gardening with Delight in a
Country Life, and I am, Sir, your
Obedient Servant,
J. B. B.
J. B. B.
J. B. B.

(I)



THE
Country Gentleman
AND
FARMER'S
MONTHLY DIRECTOR.

JANUARY.



HIS Month the Farmer has near as much to do about the House, as he has in the Field; for if we have any severe Weather, it may be now expected: and besides, the shortness of the Days will not admit of much

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Work to be done abroad : sometimes indeed it happens that the Weather is open enough to use the Plough, but that is seldom in the first Fortnight. It is necessary now, if the Weather be unfit for ploughing, to look over all our Instruments belonging to Husbandry, if that was not done in the former Month ; but a good Husbandman will hardly leave this Business till this time : for as the greatest Prospect of good Summer Crops, which a Farmer can have, proceeds from a Watchfulness and a Readiness to get the Seed or Roots early in the Ground ; so if Instruments are not all ready for work, when the Weather begins to be mild, he may lose the Benefit, which he proposes from his Labour and Expences. For if the Spring happens to be dry, as it was about four Years ago, the Barley and Oats that are sown late will hardly come up ; for then, when we had about ten Weeks dry Weather, I observ'd several Fields in *Middlesex*, where Oats and Barley were sown in *March*, that had not the least appearance of any Corn upon them in the end of *May*, at which time Showers began to fall, and then several Farmers turn'd up fresh Land, and sow'd Barley in *June*, which ripen'd very well that Year ; but 'tis hazardous, and therefore I say,
sow

sow these Crops betimes, that we may have the benefit of the *February* or *March* Showers, to bring the Grain up, and especially in those Months the Earth is the most subject to make Seeds sprout; and, as I observ'd before, in this Month, if the Ground is open, the Seeds or Grain sown about the End will come up with great Strength.

NOW is a proper time to cut Thorns for making of dry Hedges, for which Work the White-Thorn or Haw-Thorn is the best, or else Sallows or Willows will do; the White-Thorn about *London* will sometimes sell for a Guinea the Waggon-Load: so now likewise cut Stakes for Hedges, and plash your Fences, and lay down Boughs and Branches to fill the Vacancies, flinging a few Spits of Earth on the top of the Banks, so as to cover the bottoms of the plashed Branches, which will occasion some of them to take root, and so will strengthen the Fence.

IN places where there are Vacancies in Hedges, set Truncheons, or Twigs of the White Sallow, or of Black Sallow; if it be a dry Bank, or Chalky Ground, the Black Sallow is best, and will presently make a good Fence; but if the
Ground

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Ground is moist, then the White or Grey Sallow. So now is the Time to plant Fences of Quickset, in two or three Rows, about eight Inches apart, in the following manner, which is the Quincunx Order,

SOW Haw-Thorn Berries for a Nursery for Fences in a Piece of Ground that will not be disturb'd in two Years, for they will not come up till the second Year.

IT is now a proper Season to plant Elder-Sets about two Foot long for Fences. N. B. This will grow and prosper in the most stony or rocky Ground, where nothing else will do well.

WE may also plant Truncheons, or Sets of Alders or Abeles, or Poles of them, in moist Ground; for in such Land they prosper extremely, but will grow in any Ground that is not very dry. There is but one Objection that I know against plashing and mending Fences in this Month, and that is, in Hunting Countries one must expect Gaps to be made till the Hunting Season is over, and there-

therefore some defer the mending of Fences till the next Month ; but it is much the best for the Plants that we design to set, to plant them as soon as the Weather is open : as for the shortness of the Days, which some object against at this time, it is nothing to the purpose, for Hedgers and Ditchers are employ'd by the Rod ; so that a Man is only paid in proportion to his Work.

IN Frosty Weather carry Manures or Composts upon the Lands ; such as are the lightest upon the stiff Land, and such as are more stiff and heavy upon the light Land.

NOW lay Straw in the High-ways, and such places where Cattle frequent, in order to make a Compost for your stiff Lands.

IN this Month you may cut Underwood, and Springs of Wood, or that Work may be left till the next Month. In the cutting of Spring Wood, observe how many Years Growth your Springs or Coppices should be before they are fit for cutting ; if seven Years, you must divide your Coppices into seven Parts, and cut one Part every Year, so you will constantly

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stantly have a Supply from year to year, or if they require eight or nine Years growth, divide your Coppices into as many Parts. At this time set Truncheons of Alder, Willow, Sallow, Abele, &c. if you have Vacancies in your Coppices. This Month's cutting is most proper for Bavens, or Faggoting, or Poles, but the next Month for Hoops.

BE careful to keep Cattle from your Springs, or Coppices, for they are now very subject to brouse and crop the tender Shoots.

THIS is a busy Month for threshing of Beans, Pease, and such Grain as should be sown for Summer Crops, for 'tis of great advantage to any Grain to remain in the Husk till the Seed-time is at hand. It will sprout with great Vigour.

NOW is also a proper Time to cleave and make up Stack-wood, which is done always by the Great, as well as Faggoting and Bavening, or the cutting of Spring or Coppice Wood by the Rod.

THIS is the properest Season to destroy the *Mole* or *Want*, for they make
their

their Nests about the beginning of the Month, and increase plentifully.

PRUNE and thin the cluster'd Wood in your Orchard Trees, if that Work was not done in *December*.

ABOUT the beginning of the Month, give some Feed to your Pidgeons mix'd with Cummin-Seeds, which will make your Dove-Court rich, early in the Spring; for early Pidgeons sell well in the Markets, and there is nothing which promotes the breeding of Pidgeons more than Cummin-Seed.

IT should be observ'd that Poultry, as well as all other Creatures, are more subject to breed early, as they are invigorated by hot Food, or a plenty of wholesome Food: so that now, as well as in *December*, let not your common Poultry want, that there may be Chickens fit for the Table in *April*, which is a Month when they are valuable in many Markets; but to have Chickens the most valuable about *London*, is to have them now fit for the Table, as will be directed in another Month.

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TO fatten Chickens the best way and quickly, is to put them into Coops as usual, and feed them with Barley-Meal; but in particular to put a small quantity of Brick-dust in their Water, which they should never be without: this last will give them an Appetite to their Meat, and fatten them very soon. For in this case we must consider, that all Fowls and Birds have two Stomachs, as we may call them, the one is the Crop which softens their Food, and the other the Gizzard which macerates their Food; in the last, we always find small Stones and sharp Sand, which help to do that office; and without them, or something of that kind, a Fowl is wanting of its Appetite to eat; for the Gizzard cannot macerate, or, as we may say, grind the Food fast enough to discharge it from the Crop, without such Sand or Stones, and here the Brick-dust is assisting. This Receipt I had from Mrs. *Whaley* of *Loftes* in *Essex*, a Lady of great Curiosity and Ingenuity. Nor need we be wanting of such Chickens or any other Fowls, even in the hottest Seasons, tho' they were to be brought from the most remote Parts, if we take the following Method, which I had from the same Lady, who experienc'd it upon
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some Partridges, which she kept near ten days in the warmest Season of the Year. Let the Fowls be pick'd clean of their Feathers, presently after they are kill'd ; and when they are drawn, dry a Napkin very well, and as soon as it is cold, dry the inside of the Fowls as much as possible with it, and lay them in another dry cool Napkin till they are quite cool ; then put them into a dry glazed Earthen Vessel, and melt a sufficient quantity of good Butter to pour over them, so as to cover them two Inches ; but care must be taken not to pour the Butter on them too hot. And I find that 'tis not only ten Days, but three Weeks or a Month in hot Weather, that a Fowl will keep good by this method of Management, and will then bear roasting as well as a Fowl that has been kill'd but a Day ; and, in my opinion, is preferable to a Fowl of that date. The Lady adds, that there can be little Objection against the Expence, because she says the Butter is the only Charge, and that is useful after there has been occasion to use the Fowls. A Philosopher can easily judge how rational it is to take these steps in the preservation of dead Bodies from Putrefaction ; but such Farmers, who yet are not so great Philosophers as they should be, may learn that
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every Animal Body after Death is more subject to Putrefaction the more it abounds in Juices; 2. That these Juices, when their Motion is ceas'd, become proper Nests for the admission and nursing of the Eggs or Seeds of Insects; for we find the Insects are enticed by them to lay their Eggs in them, which soon renders the Body fetid, and of an ill savour; so must we observe, all Bodies of Fowls or other Animals must, immediately after they are kill'd, be discharg'd as much as possible from their liquid Parts, and be defended from any Invasion from Insects, till they are quite cold, and then enclosed from the Air entirely, if possible, to keep them from Putrefaction. 'Tis for these Reasons the dry Napkins are here necessary; and the covering of the Fowls till they are cold with dry Napkins, and then immediately burying them in Butter; or it may be Oil, would keep them sweet as long as Butter; but then such Oil will not be useful on any other account.

KEEP your Chickens from Snails or Slugs this Month, for it gives them a Sickness which makes them droop: and now examine the number of your Poultry, and leave only a Cock to seven or eight Hens, that your Summer Breed
may

may be strong ; but if you have not a sufficient number of Cocks for the Hens, rather sell off some of the Hens than buy in Cocks which are Strangers, for there will be a disagreement which will occasion a weakness and poorness in the Chickens.

PUT up some Hogs for fattening as in the former Month, for in a cold Season they will best take Salt, and more easily and cheaply be cured, because the Fires now are more constant than in the following Months ; and 'tis the continued Smoke which greatly helps their Cure.

GEESE and Ducks may be forced to lay and sett early, by putting them in a cover'd place, and feeding them well, and allowing them every day Water a little warm in a large Tub, early in the Morning ; for the young ones of these sell well at the *London* Markets when they come early.

IN the Dairy there is little extraordinary to be done in this Month ; but as to the Business of the Churn, the greatest difficulty is in the cold Months to bring the Butter : therefore set the bottom of the Churn in a Tub of warm Water, and
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there will not be a fourth part of the trouble, for this warmth will occasion the more Fat or Oily Parts, to separate easily from the more Watry Parts.

NOW be careful of your Lambs to house them, and suckle them, as directed in my Monthly Works, for they now fetch a good price ; and be not unmindful of your tame Rabbits, or those which are kept in small paved Warrens, giving them chiefly dry Meat, such as Hay, Oats and Bran, and not above one Feed of Greens in a Day.

IN frosty Weather, break the Ice every Day in the deepest parts of your Ponds, and lay some Pea-haulm in such Places, it will help to keep the holes open.

IF the Weather be now open, 'tis a good time to set *Spanish* and Hotspur Beans for early Crops.

THERE are many things which may be done in the House by a good Housewife, which may more properly appear in another Work ; and I especially reserve them to be inserted in *Xenophon's Oeconomy*, which I design shortly to publish ; and therefore desire either Gentlemen or Ladies,

Ladies, who have any Receipts which may be beneficial or agreeable to the Publick, that they will please to communicate them to me, to be left at Mr. *Fowler's*, Mathematical Instrument Maker, in *Swithins-Alley* near the *Royal Exchange*, and I shall gratefully acknowledge their Favours ; and I think that such a *Work*, enrich'd from several Parts and Countries, will be of general use.



lowered than the ground, and the water
to be raised with cold water
in the form of the most
convenient, but in the
the Country, I have been I have
greatly improved the mode
the water proper for
lowering the water, the
now there is no more all hands
and all the water can be produced
the little engine for raising water
the ground, and consequently for raising
water itself. I have been I have
lowered the water, and the water
A Farmer's and Gardener's use to con-
sider and fix his eye for the several par-
tials of his Ground, that he may be on in
his Business without hesitation, and for
his light Grounds that also he must ob-
serve that his light Seeds should now be
sown in the ground, and the water to the

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F E



F E B R U A R Y.



HIS Month hath been observed to be attended with cold wet Weather, in some of the most Woody Countries ; but in the flat Countries where I have been, I have generally found the Weather pretty moderate at this time, and very proper for sowing almost any kind of Grain ; so that now there is no time to lose, all Hands, and all the Teams that can be procured, are little enough for large Farms to get the Ground cropt compleatly for a Summer Harvest.

A Farmer's first Care should be to contrive and fix his Crops for the several Parcels of his Ground, that he may go on in his Business without hesitation, and sow his light Grounds first ; also he must observe that his light Seeds should now be the

the first sown, such as Carrots, Parsnips, Onions, and such like ; and let him be sure to appoint his light deep Soil for such Plants as are valuable in their Roots ; for in such Soils the Roots prosper, and are large and well tasted.

MAKE now Plantations of Liquorice in deep sandy Soil, planting the Heads of Liquorice about a Foot apart, and the whole Piece must be sown with Onions, which will produce a profitable Crop the same Year ; but the Liquorice will not be fit to take up till the third Year : Or, you may sow your Liquorice-Ground with any other Crop the first Year, that may be gather'd that Summer, and that does not yield too much shade.

THE light Ground also is very good for Potatoes, which should likewise be planted in this Month from small Knobs or Roots, which should be set a foot asunder ; they will afford a good profitable Crop for Winter.

NOW prepare and dress your Hop-Grounds by flinging up fresh Mould upon the Hop-Hills, and Weeding them and Thinning the Runners, so as to leave only five or six of the strongest Shoots.

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PRUNE out the dead Wood from your Cherry-Orchards.

NOW spread some good fresh Soil upon your Meadow-Land, which will cover and nourish the Roots of your Grass.

IF your Wheat is pretty Strong or Rank, feed it with Sheep, which will make it spread and branch ; but let this not be done if the Ground is very wet.

NOW sow Barley either alone, or with Clover and Rye-Grass ; when with Clover, then the Field is design'd to be laid down for Grass ; in this Work the Barley must be sown first and harrow'd, and then sow the Clover and Rye-Grass, and harrow them in with Bushes.

SOW now Oats which are either the Black or the White ; the Black does best upon Chiltun Ground.

YOU may likewise now sow big or four-row'd Barley, which will just bring as much more Grain as the common two-row'd Barley ; it makes very good Malt, and is much used in the North of *England*. So likewise, if it can be had, sow some
of

of the six-row'd Barley, which some Farmers in *Devonshire* have raised with great Success; but it is scarce, and I believe, will be come at with some difficulty: however, a little will soon produce a vast Increase, supposing only one Ear bearing 150 Grains will very probably bring as many Plants if sown carefully; and as this generally brings 8 or 10 Heads upon a Plant, one may easily guess how soon one may gain Corn enough to sow an Acre. The dressing for common Barley serves for this.

THERE is a sort of Wheat and Rye, which I receiv'd from the North Side of the *Appennine Mountains*, and have communicated to several Gentlemen in *England*, which brings good Crops, being sown at this Season, with only common Dressing, such as for Barley.

NOW sow Pease for Seed, and set broad Beans: sow Horse-Beans in stiff Land, that they may be ripe betimes.

SOW Vetches, or Tares, upon chiltern or gravelly Soil.

NOW is a proper Season to sow Tills or Lentels, upon chalky Land, or

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where the Surface or Staple is shallow ;
they make an excellent Fodder for Cattle.

S O W Teasels upon stiff wet Land.

S P R E A D Wood-Ashes upon such
Grass-Lands as are Mossy.

W H E R E the Ground is cold, you may
sow Pidgeons Dung along with your
Corn, as is practised in the Isle of *Ely*,
with good Success.

S O W white Clover with Rye-Grass
upon cold moist Land.

W E may now cut Timber of any sort
except the Oak, but that must be left
longer standing for the sake of the Bark,
which is valuable for the Tanners Use,
and in this Month will not peel, unless
one was to use Art with it, such as making
a good Fire about the Tree before we cut it
down, and then pouring hot Water over
the Trunk, which will thin the Juices
enough, as I am inform'd, to make the
Bark slip easily. It is very certain, that
the Oaks, which one may fall at this
time, will have their Timber in a much
better Condition for use and lasting, than
those that are cut in *April*, when the
Juices

Juices are watry; and tho' the Method I mention will be a little troublesome, yet the superior Goodness of the Timber will countervail.

WE may yet cut Underwood and Coppice Wood, and Hazle, especially for making of Hurdles.

THIS Month, and no later, cut Oziers, and also plant Oziers this Month; for tho' such Plantations may be made till the end of *March*, yet they will be much stronger by early planting.

SET Truncheons of Alders, Abeles, Willow, Sallow, &c. if that Work was not done in the former Month.

NOW sow in the new-made Hedges some Acorns and Ashen Keys, or set here and there some Chesnuts, or Walnuts; they will require no more trouble than the first putting them into the Ground, and the Bushes will guard them sufficiently from the Cattle.

IF you have taken care in the last Month to help your Dove-Court with warm Food, such as is there directed, you may

may expect now to draw some Pidgeons, which will fetch a good Price in the Markets; one now will be worth three or four in *March*.

A T the beginning of this Month one may remove Colonies of Bees, if the Weather be cold; but if the Weather happens to be warm, as I have generally observ'd it, then 'tis much the best way to buy Swarms; especially Bees will thrive best where there are store of Flowers, chiefly where there are large Commons of Gorze or Furze, or Whins and Broom, and Heath: they cost nothing to maintain, and prosper exceedingly where they have such Benefits; therefore in such places they should not be wanting, for their Wax and Honey amount to a good Value, especially if the latter be apply'd to make the Liquor call'd Metheglin, or strong Mead, which is an excellent nourishing Drink, and I much wonder it is not more frequent, seeing how easily it may be had. And in such places the Bees cannot miscarry, but be strong Stocks, if they are kept warm in the Severity of the Winter-Season: for this end, I prefer the Boxes rather than Straw-Hives; for the Box-Hives may give as much room as one pleases to the Bees, that they may work Year after Year

Year without being destroy'd ; but the Straw-Hives, as soon as they are full, oblige us to destroy the Bees themselves, if we are to make use of the Honey. If Bees have room enough, and are not interrupted, they will lay up a prodigious Store. In some hollow Places, where the Bees made their Combs of their own accord, has been found about eight or nine hundred Pounds weight of Honey and Wax at one time. I can't help observing, that if the Weather proves very hot, as it did about four Years ago, the Bees will be inclinable to swarm, as I then found in several places in *England* ; but I do not find that this ever happen'd before, in the Memory of any Man now living.

NOW is the best Season for the storing or stocking of Ponds, observing that the Store-Fish be the Spawn of the foregoing Year ; and, if possible, to bring them out of small Ponds to large Ponds, and from lean gravelly Waters to fat rich Waters. I have experienc'd that these small Fish will be near as big again in four Years, as those which are put in with them of six or eight Inches long. The Carp and Tench love to be together, and delight in fat and black Waters, as they are call'd ; and Jacks, or Pikes, and Perch,
live

live and thrive in colder and clearer Waters. These last may be fed by putting Frog-Spawn into the Ponds in *March*, in order to breed there, for Frogs are a very good Feed for Jacks; or else one may, in the Month of *April*, get a stock of young Fry of Dace and Roaches, and put them into our Jack-Ponds for Food for the Jacks, or they may be fed with the Entrails of Fowls, which a Farmer of Corn Grounds will seldom be without; for in such Farms ought chiefly to be a great Number of Poultry, for otherwise there would be a great waste of Corn at the Barn-door, and it is the Interest of such a Farmer in most Places to fatten his own Fowls for the Market, as well as to breed them, and also to put them in a Condition ready for use. The Feathers will pay very well for the Labour of his Women-Servants in pulling them, and the Entrails will improve his Fish; or the Jacks, Perch, Carps, and Tench will feed and fatten, if fed with Grains; but the Carps especially thrive extremely, if they are fed with any sort of Grain, or Rasplings of Bread, or in some places they grow fat with Sheep's, or Hog's, or Ox's Blood: But there is one thing which should be observ'd, in order to the taking of Fish with ease, to feed our Ponds

always at one place, and use them to a certain Call, and they will be as tame as any other Creature; that is, when you have a mind to make them familiar, chuse a place of the Pond which you design to feed them at, and just before you sling in what you design for their Food, either give a Whistle, or make any other Noise that may be loudly heard, such as you design to continue to them at Feeding-time; and by degrees, perhaps in ten Days, you will find the Fish will come to the Feeding-place at your call, and in time will crowd so together, that you may take them easily with a large Hoop-Net, or Landing-Net: but for the first Fortnight I would advise, that not only the Place and the Call be constantly the same, but also the Time of feeding. I shall not here pretend to say, whether the Fish actually hear the Call, or whether it is only the Pressure of the Air upon the Water by whistling or hollowing, which makes them sensible; but this I am certain of, that Fish may be treated at this rate, so as we may take them at pleasure.

IF you have Ponds lying one below another, draw the upper Pond first, and put the Fish which you design for feeding in the second Pond, and sow the bottom
of

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of the first Pond with Oats, which may easily be done, without any other trouble besides casting the Grain upon the Mud, and drawing an Instrument like a Harrow over it, by two Ropes, between two Men, one on one side, and another on the other. These Oats will presently come up; and when they are about four or five Inches high, let in the Water, and put in as many Brace as you think convenient for the Quantity of Water. The Sword or Blade of these Oats will last about three Weeks, and in that time fatten Carps to a surprizing degree. When this Pond is so order'd, the next below it may be managed in the same manner, and so on to the last Pond.

NOW is the Time when we should be careful that our Fowls in the Decoys begin to lay; so that there should be a Watch to prevent the Nests being disturb'd; and at this time most of our common Poultry lay plentifully, as well those of the Waters, as of the Land. I have known some of the *China* Geese hatch in this Month, without Art; but our own should be assisted in *December* or *January* with good nourishing Food, if they are design'd for bringing young ones this Month:

Month: observe the Directions for this purpose in *January*.

OF the Goose it may be necessary to mention the following Particulars: First, that we must expect little Profit from them, unless we have a constant Water near us, either River, Pond, or Fen; and have also common Grass enough for them to feed upon, for without these they will never be healthful: And we must expect them to be an Expence to us to no purpose. The Age of the Goose is many Years, as some Farmers assure us, not less than an hundred; but whether it be so long or not, two or three of my Acquaintance, have Geese that they remember upwards of thirty Years; and one of them a Gander which he has had above fifty Years, and he remembers it was then bought in, full grown, by his Father; and, as he observes, it might then be an old Gander. The great *Willoughby*, in his History of Birds, tells us of some of these Fowls, that lived to a great Age, even to threescore Years; and of one, that was then so mischievous, that the Owner was forced to kill it, or part with it. The keeping of the Goose requires very little Labour or Charge, neither in the breeding of the Goslings, nor the common fattening

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ting them for the Markets ; for those which have only the Benefit of natural Feed, will hatch in *April* about the beginning, when the Weather is tolerable warm, and when there is Grass enough for them to bite, and yet not so long, but they may lead their Goslings over it, without entangling their Legs ; and then likewise the Clivers or Goose-Grass, which the Goslings delight in, is to be had in plenty. And as for the fattening them according to the old *English* way, that is chiefly done by turning them upon the Stubbles, as soon as the Corn is carry'd into the Barn ; and a little Barley given them in Water, when they come home, for a few days, will be enough to fit them for the Markets in the common way. But to fat them in an extraordinary manner, we should keep them in a place where there is little Light, and feed them with grown'd Malt in Water, or grown'd Malt and Bran, or grown'd Malt and Wheat-Flower mix'd with Water, so as to make a sort of Pap ; allowing them a Pan of Water besides, for Water helps to fatten them as much as their Meat. If you would have their Livers very large, which is an Excellency in this Fowl, stamp dry'd Figs, such as are commonly sold at the Grocers, and mix them in Water,
and

and when they are become a tender Paste, cram them with it for about sixteen Days, and it will extremely fatten them, and make their Livers of a vast Bigness; even so large, as to weigh upwards of two or three Pounds a-piece, as some affirm: however, I have seen very large and fat Livers of Geese, by the Practice of this Method, and the Geese themselves of an extraordinary Fatness. I cannot help mentioning a Prescription for the fatting of Geese, which I have heard has been practised by some People; it is to wrap a Goose in a Linnen Cloth, leaving only her Head and Neck open, and hanging her up in a dark place, stopping at the same time her Ears, with Pease, or some other thing; so that as she could neither see nor hear, she would not have occasion to struggle or cry; in this condition, she was cramm'd three times each Day with Paste made of grown'd Malt, or of Barley-Meal, having continually a Pan of Water and Gravel standing by her, by which means she would grow so fat in about a Fortnight, that the Liver alone would weigh above four Pounds. This Story indeed seems in some measure improbable, I mean with regard to the Weight of the Liver; but as to the Method prescribed, as far as it relates to the fatting of a

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Goose,

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Goose, I hold it to be rational, provided the Parts, which are the Ears, will suffer to be stop'd, without hurting the Goose : but if that may be done, there can be little doubt, but that a Fowl may be fatten'd to a very great degree this way, because it is already experienc'd, that want of Exercise of itself promotes Fatness ; and as for the reason there is in putting Gravel into the Water, as a Necessary to help Digestion in Fowls, it is accounted for in the Month of *January*.

BUT there is another Way, which is commonly practis'd for fattening of Geese, which is, to shut them up in a dark close Room, and feed them with Barley just broken in the Mill, or Buck-Wheat ; to which might be added a few dry'd Figs broken and bruised, and a Pan of Water with Gravel or sharp Sand : by this means they will grow fat in about a Fortnight.

BUT there is one thing which I have observ'd, and I think necessary to communicate ; which is, that if we have not a Flock of Geese of our own breed, but buy them in from the Drovers which are sent about the Country in *July* and *August*, we should have regard that we buy all of one Brood if possible, or at least
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our whole Purchase should be out of one Flock : for if we pick up here and there two or three Geese from one Flock, and a few from another, the Geese of the two different Flocks will bear a sort of Hatred to one another, and will rather go back of their Flesh, as the Farmers call it, than increase in goodness, tho' you feed them never so well. They will be sullen, and will hardly eat for two or three days, but pine and languish, as if they had a sense of the loss of their Companions; but especially if you attempt to feed a single Goose fat in a Room, or Pen, in the common way with Barley and Water, and let him see the Light, it will be some time before his Meat will begin to increase his Flesh. This may be try'd by weighing the Goose before he be put up to fat, and weighing the Goose again fourteen days or a week after. Likewise the fatting Geese should be kept out of the noise of the Geese abroad, to make them thrive the better. During the time Geese are fatting, you may now and then give them Lettice fresh from the Garden, which will greatly help them, as also Goose-grass, or Clivers.

BUT it is necessary I take notice of some Particulars relating to the bringing up of the green Geese, or Goslings; for as

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they now begin to lay, we must provide for their sitting and hatching. The hatching is in thirty days after the Goose has set upon the Eggs, if the Weather be cool; or in seven or eight and twenty, if the Weather be warm: so it is convenient to know how to preserve the Brood when we have got them.

WHEN they are hatch'd, keep them a Week within doors, unless the Weather be very warm; for being put abroad too soon, they are apt to take the Cramp, and perhaps die with it. Their Food should be at first Leaves of Lettice, if you have it, or Goose-grass, which is Clivers, and Barley half grown'd, or Raspings or Crufts of Bread steep'd and boil'd in Milk, or such like tender Diet. Use them by degrees to the Air in the warm time of the Day, and before the cold Evenings come on, house them, till by degrees they gather Strength; and by all means before you venture them to go with the Dam abroad, take care to root up all the Henbane that grows about the place, for the Goslings will eat of it, and be poison'd by it, as well as any other Fowl that tastes of it.

IT is commended by some to set Geese-Eggs under a Poultry-Hen, to have them forwarder than the Goose would set ; but a Hen will not cover above five Eggs, whereas a Goose will cover fifteen. It should be observ'd, when your Geese are about to lay, that you force them to their Nests, and shut them up ; or else perhaps they will ramble, and lay in some place out of the way, where you cannot find their Eggs : but when they have once lain an Egg or two in their Nest, they will not forsake it.

IF we should happen to take up the Eggs from the Nests of several Geese, it is proper to mark them ; for every Fowl knows her own Egg, and some will not set upon any but their own. I have known great difficulty for want of this precaution.

TAME Ducks now begin to lay naturally, and should especially have recourse to some Pond or River ; for without the help of Water, they can as hardly live, as without the help of Land : they delight likewise in Pasture or Meadow, for they delight in Herbs, such as Clover, Fenugreek, wild Lettice, Succory, and such like Herbs ; besides Snails, Slugs,

and Worms that they find there. The Herbs I have mention'd, are not less beneficial to the young Ducks than to the old ones, for they feed on them as soon as they can run abroad. If we give them Oats, Barley, or other Corn, it best agrees with them if we give such Grains in Water, for properly they love Moisture: It is however reported that they love Acorns, and that they fatten extremely by feeding on them; but this I have not myself experienced, but think it worthy trial. All places where there are Reeds, and such like Water-Weeds to shelter them, they delight in, provided they are not such as will ensnare or entangle them, or prevent their swimming and playing in the Waters; for they do not only delight to sport in the Waters, but to take their pleasures out of the way of danger; and besides, among such Water-Plants, they find a considerable Share of Food, as Insects, and such like: for these Reasons, in Winter, when the Waters are frozen, and the Snails, Slugs, and Worms, and also the green Herbs are wanting, they should be fed at home; which, tho' it is extraordinary to the Nature of the Duck, yet will they come to lay Eggs much sooner in the Spring than the wild ones, that have felt the Scarcity of Winter Provisions. For in
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the Management of this, as well as other Fowls, we must always observe, that they came of a wild Race, and therefore will always possess a great share of the wild Stamp: But the extraordinary Food about a Farm, which they meet with, will give them more Nourishment than they could receive, if they were to seek their Living altogether abroad, and so give them more Warmth and Strength of Body; which is the occasion they breed sooner than the Wild Ducks. And it is the same with all other Creatures, that have this additional Dyet, which forces them to breed sooner than Nature alone would prompt them to do: the Sheep, for instance, bring us Lambs in our Time every Month in the Year, except two; and there are many other Instances of the like Nature, mention'd in these Papers.

THESE chuse to make their Nests in secret Places near the Waters if they can, or in some private Place of Shade; but when we find them near laying, which is easily discover'd by the good House-wives, feed them at home three or four times a-day with Corn, a little at a time, chiefly at the Place where you would have them lay; making their Nests for them, and then keeping them confin'd in the House,

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till about Ten a-clock in the Morning ; for after that time of day, I never found them lay ; and by what I have hitherto observ'd, they generally lay their Eggs in the Night : and if you once bring them to lay in a Nest, they will not forsake it. Some People, when the Ducks are near laying, will strew small Sticks, or Straws, near the Place where they would have them make their Nests, rather than make Nests for them ; but I think, to make their Nests is the best Way.

WE may, notwithstanding the Temerity of the Duck, take away the Eggs, leaving one in the Nest, till we find her inclining to set, and then put as many under her as she can conveniently cover, rather her own, than the Eggs of another Duck ; however, let there be some of her own Eggs if possible, and for the sake of those, she will cover and bring up the rest, or we may set the Eggs of Ducks under the Hens of common Poultry, and they will prosper very well. But it is less trouble to let their Dams hatch them, and bring them up ; for presently after hatching, the Dam leads them to the Waters, where they feed without trouble : however, use them to come home every Night,

Night, to preserve them from Hazards, and to make them tame.

WE may still continue to feed Swine for Pork or Bacon, or for pickling; but after *March* I would not advise any Swine to be kill'd for long keeping.

SAVE the Pigs which are farrow'd in this Month, to kill for Pork in *September*; they may be fed cheap with a Wash made of Graves and warm Water, till they are put up for fatting; but leave not above five Pigs to each Sow, that they may be strong.

THE tame Rabbits may about the end have a larger share of green Dyet, than they had in the former Month.

THIS is the best Season for sowing of Hemp, which delights in strong Ground.



MARCH.



M A R C H.

THIS Month is commonly attended with dry blighting Winds, which sometimes bring little black Flies, in great Quantities, that attack the Beans and Pease; but if the Weather proves a little show'ry, it will be of great service to the sown Seeds of last Month, as well as for the Seeds to be sown in this. If it should happen that this Fly invades us, I think it necessary to burn the Crop, rather than continue it: for we may be assured, that there can be no Profit arise by letting it remain on the Ground; and if we turn up our Ground afresh at this time, there is a Prospect of making an Advantage of such Ground the same Summer, for it is not yet too late to sow many things. Many Farmers indeed have been willing to expect some Relief from

from Rains which might happen, supposing that a little wet would destroy the Flies; but in all the Crops I have ever seen thus infected, I have found that a little Wet will not destroy 'em. And so the Farmers have wish'd, when it was too late, that they had new cropt their Land, when the Season yet had opportunity of acting in their favour. But we have sometimes Showers in this Month, which rather help the Farmer in ploughing and sowing, than prevent him; notwithstanding the old Rule of sowing dry, by which is only meant, that it is not proper to sow our Grain when the Ground is over-wet or miry, for then the Seed will be in danger of rotting: but I am satisfied from Experience, that while the Ground is a little moist, it is much more nourishing to the Seed, than when it is dry, and the Seed will then more quickly spring.

IF we have not yet got in all our Barley, we may sow it, in hope of Rain to bring it up, either about the end of this Month, or in the following.

WE may yet sow Oats, both the white and black, with the same Expectation of Wet.

PEASE,

PEASE, either the grey or other sorts proper for Field-Crops, may now be sown, for they frequently rot and canker by much Wet. And also now we may set the broad *Windsor* Bean. We now must finish the sowing of Horse-beans and Vetches.

THE beginning of this Month is the latest Season for sowing of Woad or Wod, which is the Plant call'd *Glaſtum* in *Latin*. This is of extraordinary use to Dyers, and if it be carefully managed, will be worth about thirty or forty Pounds an Acre the first Year, especially if, during the Summer, it has the advantage of refreshing Showers : I have known five Crops cut in one Year ; but the first and second are the best. It will last good three or four Years, unless you let it run to seed ; but it should always be cut as soon as the Leaf is full grown. Almost any Ground will do for it, that is not too stiff or too wet ; and if the Ground be fresh, good ploughing and beating will be better for it than Dung. This dyes a blue Colour, and is more in use among the Dyers, than any other Herb or Drug.

NOW

NOW upon fresh strong Ground sow Flax, and you may expect a good Crop; there is no need of Dung for this, but the Ground must be beat and made fine.

AS this Plant is not known in all Parts of *Great Britain*, I think it necessary to be the more particular in its Culture and Description. It rises out of the Ground with a long slender Stalk, set with slender narrow Leaves, and bears Flowers of a bright blue Colour, which, as they fall away, are succeeded by round Seed-Vessels as large as Pease, including yellowish Seeds, which are call'd Lin-Seeds, from the *Latin Linum*, the Name of the Plant. It delights in fresh broke up Ground, and is good to be sown in stiff clay Grounds; which if it be somewhat moist, 'tis never the worse, and in such Ground it will grow very strong, but then the Flax will not be very fine: but in a more gravelly light Soil, it will not grow so strong, but the Flax will be very fine. Once ploughing is enough for Flax, so that there is little trouble in putting it into the Ground. Some defer sowing it till the next Month, and some do not sow it till *May*, believing, that by late sowing in the Summer Months,

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Months, the Flax will not be over-nourish'd, and will consequently be the finer; or else, that some Grounds which lie wet, will not bear ploughing so early in the Year as this Month: For in the same Parish, I have seen among Hills, the Ground lying on the South Side of an Hill, has been fit to plough, and sow in *February*, or at latest in this Month; and the Ground lying on the North Side of the Hill, has not been fit for a Plough till the End of *April*; so much Difference is there in Situation. So I must advertise my Reader now and then, as I pursue this Work, that when I direct Seeds or Grain to be sown in *February*, I mean only in such Places where the Ground is in a good Temper or Disposition to be turn'd up by the Plough; and where it is not, let the same Work be done as soon as the Ground is in order for ploughing: and we should especially contrive, if possible, to have the Seed in the Ground at such a time as one may expect Rain, for it requires Wet to bring it up. About *Gullick* there is abundance of Flax sown, which turns to extraordinary Advantage, and also there are great Quantities sown in *Muscovy*, where, through the Care and Vigilance of the late Emperor, the Manufacturing of it is extremely improved, so as
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even to vie with the Linnen Cloth of most Nations in *Europe*. As for the time when the Flax is fit to gather, we may know it by the Stalks turning of a yellowish Colour, and the Seed-Vessels being full grown ; it must then be pluckt up by the Roots, and ty'd in little Bundles to be set upright and expos'd to the Sun, at the same time with a kind of Iron-Comb, combing off the Seed-Vessels, which, after some days lying in the Sun, the Seeds will be ripe and fit to press for Oil. When the Stalks are pretty dry, the Bundles are laid in Water where the Sun has some influence, with a Weight upon them, to keep them under Water till the Rind or outward Skin of the Stalks begins to grow loose and rot ; which is a Rule which teaches us when they have lain long enough in Water. Then the Bundles must be unloosed and spread in the Sun to dry thoroughly, and after that they must be beaten with Beetles till the outer Rind and all the pulpy Part is quite lost, so that there remains only the Strings of the Flax ; after which, it is combed and hack'd with Iron-Combs till it is drawn out fine and shines like Silk, and the more it is combed, the finer it is. What is thus combed from the Flax, is called the Tow, and serves for coarse Work, and is spun for

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for weaving of a sort of harsh Cloth, but the pure Flax serves to make the finest Linnen. When these are spun, they are sent to the Weavers for their respective Uses; and when they are severally woven, the flaxen Cloth is laid in the hot Sun, and sprinkled with Water till it becomes very white, and is then ready for Sale, to be made into such Garments, or apply'd to such Uses as are necessary. But in some cases, this flaxen or linnen Thread is dy'd of several Colours before it is woven into Cloth, or else when it is woven and whiten'd, 'tis printed with variety of Figures and Colours, which makes a light Summer-Wear for Country-Dresses. But even in weaving of it there is great Variety: There is the plain Cloth, such as is brought from *Holland*; there is the Cambric, the Lawns, the Diaper, the Huckaback, the Damask, &c. which are all the Product of Flax, but are only dress'd and wrought several ways: and then again all the Laces which are so frequently worn, and Edgings, are made of this. So that considering how many Hands this Plant alone employs, its Manufacture is well worth encouraging where there are many Hands and Provisions cheap; but the whitening part cannot be done every where, for that depends upon a certain sort

fort of Water with a little Management, as I have observ'd abroad; and the Management and the Water must go together, or else we shall fail in our Endeavours: for I have seen a right sort of Water try'd, and the Management has been wrong, and all the Work has been in vain; and so it will be as bad, if the Management be right, and the Water unfit for the purpose. Thus far I shall venture to say, it will be difficult to whiten Linnen well in an inland Country or an upland Country; and I am persuaded that the business of whitening Cloth may be much improv'd in *Ireland*, where the Linnen Manufacture is already brought to a great height by very prudent Management.

IT is necessary, before I leave the Flax, that I take notice of the common Opinion concerning it, *viz.* that it impoverishes the Ground where it is sown; and moreover, that the steeping it in Water destroys Fish. As to the first, we sow it for a first Crop upon strong fresh Ground, and it helps to season the Ground, to take off its sour Quality, and temper it for other Crops. Wheat would prove too rank, and grow too luxuriant upon such Grounds, if we were to make it the first Crop after Tillage; that is, it would run up to Straw, instead of bringing full Ears, according to
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the common way of sowing. But in all fresh Grounds, which we may guess would prove too rank for Corn if they were not to be temper'd this way, sow the Corn thin enough, and it will do well; about half the Quantity of Seed will do, that is usually allow'd; and it must be sown early, and fed down with Sheep. This indeed is not practised by the Farmers, and I suppose will be thought unreasonable by many; but Experience in several cases of this kind teaches me, that all Ground which is very strong, as this we speak of, should be serv'd so: for I have seen some pieces of Wheat which in Winter were not counted worth ten Shillings *per* Acre, because of the great distance the Plants stood from one another, which brought as good Crops as one would desire. We should consider in the sowing of every sort of Grain, first the strength of the Land; and in the next place, how large one single Plant of that Grain would be when it came to its full Growth; and if we sow our Crops in such a manner, *i. e.* so close together, that the Plants do not fill singly as much Space as a single Plant would do, then we may be sure they stand closer together than Nature requires them.

BUT

BUT as far as the steeping of Flax concerns the Killing of Fish, I can say thus much, That when Flax has been in steep, some very expert Fishermen of my Acquaintance, could never take any Fish within an hundred Yards of the Place down the Stream, nor within about fifty Yards above the Stream; but I have not seen any dead Fish in the same River. However, one might try whether an Infusion of Flax in Water would kill a Fish, at an easy rate; for it is yet a doubt with me, whether this Infusion drives the Fish away, or feeds them in such plenty, that they will not bite at the Angle.

ABOUT the End of this Month, I may remind the Farmer of a Rarity, which he may find in his Ground, and will continue till the End of the next Month; and that is a sort of Mushroom Honey-comb'd like the Morille, but much rougher, and of a brownish Colour, and hollow, sometimes as large as a great Turnep, sometimes shewing a Stalk, and sometimes none at all. It is generally found at the Root of an Elm-Tree on a Bank-Side, and I think never on the plain Ground. In *Essex* they are sold with the Morille, as if they were really so, but deform'd.

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This sort is call'd abroad *Centrellés*, and by some of the Curious in *England* by the same Name, which I take comes from the *French Words Cent Oreilles*, or an hundred Ears; for the Hollows in them, which make them appear after an Honey-comb manner, may, with a little liberty, be likened to Ears, as well as the *Fungus Sambucinus* be call'd the Jew's-Ear. These are, however, very good, either boil'd or stew'd; I have eaten of them, they are a little like the Morille, and are, as I observ'd before, sold in the Markets with them, and for them. They both appear at the same time, and are worth looking for. I hope the Farmer will excuse my giving him this little Amusement, while I am talking of Business: I shall now proceed.

THIS Month is one of the principal Months in the Year for Brewing, and a wise Farmer will now brew a Quantity to last the Summer; for what is now brew'd, will keep.

WITH the Barley or Oats that is sown this Month, sow Weld, or what some call Dyer's Weed, to be harrow'd in with Bushes; but this will not be a Crop till the year following: it is a very small Seed,

Seed, and must be sown thin, and it will bring a very profitable Return to be sold to the Dyers, who use abundance of it for Dying of Yellow. I have known fifteen pounds an Acre made of this Plant. It loves dry Ground best, and will grow in Land without Dung, if it was to be sown a single Crop, but then we must consider we lose the Ground the first Year; however, what Land will not do for Corn, will do for this; or it may be sown now with Canary Seed, which will bring a good Crop the first Summer, and thrives well in dry Ground without any Manure.

PRETTY soon in this Month sow *St. Foine*, upon Gravelly and Chiltern Grounds that are dry; 'tis a wonderful Improver of Land, and is very good Fodder for Cattle, either made into Hay, or green in the Field. I have known it cut three times in a Year.

LA LUCERN, a sort of Clover, so call'd from the name of the Place it was first brought from in *Germany*; it bears a small yellowish Seed, and will prosper even in the dryest Ground: it is a very quick Grower, and may be cut three or four times in a Summer; there is no need

of Dung or other Manure where this is sown, unless we spread a little over the Field in *January*, about the third year after sowing ; and so you may continue to do till it is worn out, and the same may be done with the other *French-Grasses*, as they call them. This I have seen growing very strong in Clay Grounds, and in Gravelly Soil, and Chalky Lands ; in a word, it thrives every where.

THIS Lucern is of several kinds, it is in *Latin* call'd *Medica*, and in *English* *Medick* Clover ; many of its Varieties are to be met with describ'd in *Parkinson's* Herbal, and in *Johnson* upon *Gerrard*, and other Herbals. The Seed-Vessels of the several Sorts sport very oddly ; one sort bearing a spined Fruit resembling Hedge-Hogs, another brings its Fruit like little Barrels ; one kind has that Fruit which resembles Snails : which Sorts, with many others, are to be had at the Cross-Keys in *Lombard-Street*, the Seed-Shop belonging to Mrs. *Stratfield* and Company, who are extremely careful in the Choice of all their Seeds, both for Fields and Gardens, and who I have experienced may be depended upon for their Fidelity ; which I think fit to mention, because it is not always we meet with Seeds, that are so good

good as we ought to expect. There are, however, many Varieties of the Lucern, as I have observ'd above, but they are not all of them fit for the Field, some of them being only annual : The Sort which we have chiefly in use with us, is as good as any of the durable kinds, yielding a strong Plant, which is apt to draw as much benefit from the Air as from the Earth, and for that reason takes well in any Ground. I have, last Year, 1726, seen the Experience of it thriving upon dry Banks, in low Places tolerably moist, in stiff Clays, in heathy Grounds, in gravelly Soil, in stony rocky Places, in loomy Soil, in chalk Ground, in chiltun Ground, and in all the different Soils I could meet with : For it is my way to carry in my Pocket the Stranger Seeds, and sow them in every sort of Ground I pass over, and once in a Year take an Account of them. And this particularly I have been trying the Success of for several Years, and find now that no Ground comes amiss to it : I cannot indeed say, that it grows equally strong in every Soil ; but where it thrives the least, it is much to be prefer'd to any Crop of Grass or Clover that ever grew there before it, and so far it improves the Ground. I find particularly it is a great Improver of hot burning Lands, which

lie much exposed to the Sun ; for it is a Plant that has a full juicy Stalk, and is able to support itself from the Dews and the Air, like other Plants that have the same share of Succulency : And again, it is not so over-succulent or juicy, as to rot or suffer in a moist Ground ; which is the Philosophical Reason why any Soil will bear it. I observe, that the first Year of sowing it, it will be about eight Inches high in two Months ; and if it is then cut within two Inches, as I have done for tryal's sake, it will in two Months more be fourteen or fifteen Inches high, and in two Months more about two Foot high ; but tho' I did this for a Trial, yet I do not advise the cutting it so soon as I did, for it weakens the Root, that it will not last so long. The second Year, however, if it is upon the Soil it likes best, you may cut it three times, and leave a large Crop upon the Ground for Winter : I have cut it four Times between the Spring and the Winter ; but then it is hazardous whether there will be Weather to make it into Hay, for it requires good Drying. As for the Quantity of Seed required for an *English* Acre, it must be one fourth less than we use of the great Clover, and must be sown like it. I have not yet try'd it to be sown and rolled in among Wheat, as they

they do Clover this Month in many Places, to serve for a Winter Fodder; neither do I think it convenient to sow it upon any ridged Land, because it cannot be mown, and the Hay is much preferable to the feeding of it: And considering it is a Plant that will afford Meadow for many Years, it would be a Loss to plow it into the Ground after one Year's Service. The feeding of it, till Cattle are a little used to it, is also dangerous, and will be apt to swell them, and even burst them, if they are not brought acquainted with it by degrees; but the Hay made of it is extraordinary Fodder for Cattle in Winter, and also the Lucern in the Field is a very serviceable Winter-Food for Cattle: for it is of a warm Nature, and very nourishing, and not apt to rot Sheep, tho' it is a Plant somewhat juicy. There is, without dispute, no Plant which increases the Milk in Cows so much as this, or will fat Oxen so soon as this; and is no less useful for fattening Sheep, as has been experienced by some who have it growing in *Cambridgeshire, Essex*, and some other Counties. It has been much cultivated by Captain Cizar, or Sysar, at a Farm belonging to Mr. Western, at *Abbingdon-Hall* near *Bourn-Bridge* in *Cambridgeshire*; but the Captain being now dead, it is not every

ry one of the Workmen about his Farm that know it ; however, there it is, and may be found among his other Varieties of Improvements. Some of the common People call it *Lucy*, and *Long Clover*, and *Dutch Clover*, and *Flanders Grass*.

AT the first giving this *Medich Clover* or *Lucern* in Hay to Cattle, it should be mix'd with two thirds of Barley-Straw ; and when they have been fed about a Fortnight thus with it, you may give it them with an equal Quantity of Straw or common Hay ; but Straw is the best, because it helps to moderate the warm Quality of the *Lucern*, which alone would fill them too full of Blood.

HORSES feeding upon this Grass in the Spring, are purg'd by it better than by any other Grass ; but they must be brought to it discreetly, and allow'd the Use of it very moderately at first, but it gives a Horse clean Flesh, and a gay Appearance : However, it must be observ'd, that such Cattle as have made it their Winter Pasture, should be shut out of the Field the beginning of this Month ; for then it must be left to shoot for mowing.

THE Time of Grazing upon the Lucern, is from the End of *September* till the End of *February*, or a Week later at farthest, and turn your Cattle into the Field as soon as you have carry'd in your last Crop of Hay from it.

AFTER the second Cutting of the Lucern, each Year you may if you please let it stand for Seed, which it will ripen the same Summer ; then cut off the Heads of Seeds, and let them dry upon Sheets, or Bass Matts, and thresh them out, or else there is a Mill, such as they use for Clover-Seed, which will clear them from the Husks much better. It is to be noted, that as soon as the Heads of ripe Seeds are cut from the Plant, the Lucern must be mown and made into Hay, taking care to turn it often, that it be thoroughly dry'd, before the Hay is carry'd into the Barn, for it will not do well in a Rick or Cock. After this Crop is mown, it will presently recover itself for a Winter-Grass for Cattle ; the Hay, if it is well dry'd, will keep very well two Years ; and some have computed, that one Year's Product of an Acre of this Grass, will serve to keep three Horses.

I am told, we may now sow this with Barley, as they do Clover, only observing, that we do not allow above two Thirds as much Barley, when we sow this with it, as we would do, if we were to sow Clover with Barley. But for further Particulars relating to this Grass, they may be found in my other Works.

AT this Season, if the foregoing Month and *January* has been dry enough to come near the Bogs or extreme wet Lands, we may sow them with the Grass, which in *Merett's Pinax* is call'd *Gramen Spica Lavendulae*, this prospers extremely about the Bogs near *Tunbridge*; but the Seed is not ripe till *September*. This Grass grows very high, and in Tufts of such a large size, and takes so good root in those boggy Places, that wherever it is found, in the most dangerous Bog, it will bear the Weight of a Man; as that curious Gentleman Mr. *Charles Dubois* assures me, who has been the only Observer of its good Qualities, and therefore recommends it as a good Grass for such morass Grounds. But we must observe, that the Seed of it is not ripe till *September*, when the Plant may best be discover'd; but if we happen to miss that time of gathering it, by only ob-

observing the Plant, we may remove a Root or two of it this Month, to raise a Stock from.

NOW is the time for sowing of Teasels, whose rough Heads, when they are ripe, are used by the Cloth-Workers for dressing of Cloth; an Acre of cold Clay Ground, will bring near an hundred and eighty Bundles, which may be sold for as many Shillings, where the Woollen Manufacture is carry'd on. This I esteem one of the best Improvements for stiff cold Ground, but consider your Market when you sow this, for else the Carriage may run away with most of the Profit. About nine Quarts of Seed will sow an Acre, or if it be sown with Coriander-Seed, as some do, then about half the quantity of Seed will do, and both the Crops will be ripe the same Year.

NOW sow Caroway-Seed, but as this will not bring its Crop till the second year, sow along with it an equal Quantity of Coriander-Seed; I mean, such a quantity of Coriander as may produce an equal number of Plants, for the Seed of this is much larger than the Caroway-Seed. A Clay Ground does very well for these Seeds, but it must be well plough'd

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plough'd and without Dung ; the Caroways will bring good Crops three years successively, if they are kept clear from Weeds. All these bring valuable Crops.

NOW sow white Clover upon moist Clay Ground, and you may sow Rye-Grass with it.

TOWARDS the end, sow Spurry-Seed, which will ripen its Crop about *July*.

THE Spurry is a well-known Plant in *Germany* and *Flanders* ; but is at present little known in *England*. However strange it may be to our *English* Husbandmen, it is very well worth their Care ; being a Plant that may be sow'd upon Fallows, and prove very advantageous to them for their feeding of Cattle and Poultry. The *Latin* Name of it is *Spergula*, which Name is well known in *Germany* and *Flanders*, from whence any one may have it : it is also call'd Sperry. It grows about a Foot high, full of Branches, resembling a little Bush ; the Flower is white, and the Plants appearing without Leaves ; the Flower is succeeded by little Pods like those upon Flax, which contain small Seed, almost like Rape-Seed. The richest Milk,
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and the best Butter in *Germany* is produced by this feeding, and it preserves the Cattle in Health ; it is there prefer'd before any other Fodder, nay even before Grain. The Straw alone is much more nourishing than the best Hay, and the very Chaff is esteem'd as good as Corn, for the use of Cattle, and the Grain is excellent for feeding of Pidgeons and Poultry in the Winter, it will bring them to lay and breed very forward.

IT is a Plant of that nature, that the most barren Sandy Lands will produce it ; and it grows as well upon the most harsh surly Gravels, or upon Fallows ; it may be sown any time in the Summer, tho' the Soil be never so stiff, even the most stiff Soil, and upon Chalk of any sort. We may now sow it with Oats for the sake of the Seed, and after Harvest sow it for feeding of Cattle. In a word, it is so advantageous to the Husbandman, that no one should be without it ; for Sheep, Goats, Kine, all Sorts of Poultry, and Bees delight extremely in it.

SOW Mustard Seed in strong Clay Ground ; if it lies a little wet, it is not the worse.

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YOU may this Month turn your Cows and Sheep into such Grounds as you have sown with Cole-Seed or Rape-Seed, if Grass or Fodder is scarce ; but let them go no longer there, than till the end of the Month.

IT is not proper to kill Hogs for pickled Pork, or drying for Bacon, later than this Month ; for the Flesh will not receive Salt kindly, and the Fat will be apt to grow rusty.

NOW your Dove-Court Pidgeons are in great plenty, and though some Farmers are at the expence of keeping them off their new sown Fields ; it is my opinion, that they eat none of the Grain, but what happens not to be cover'd, and consequently would never grow : for they do not dig as the Rooks do, but peck as they walk from place to place ; and then it is rather advantageous to the Farmer to give them the freedom of the Field : but the Rooks are mitchievous.

IN this Month, if the Weather be not too Cold and Windy, and there is good store of Flowers abroad, your Bees will begin to breed. Lay Turpentine near
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their Hives, it will help them very much ; and place some Vessels of Water near them, which must often be renew'd if they have not the Conveniency of a Pond already near them, for they delight in it : Observe likewise to remove from about their Hives every thing which may yield the least offensive smell.

IF you happen to have any Cows calve this Month, put them in the House the same day, and keep them there till the next day, giving them what Water is necessary, a little warm'd. In the warmest part of the following days, you may turn them out to Grass, but return them to the House every night for a Week or ten Days. Before they go abroad in the Days, give them Water as above. 'Tis best for the Dairy when Cows calve in this Month or *April*, and the Calves of these Months will make the strongest Cattle ; for the Cows now begin to give store of Milk, and the Calves will be well nourish'd, and be strong before Winter. It is best to let the Calves run with the Cows for the first year, if we design to breed them for large or strong Cattle, and not to wean the Calves too early.

THE Pigs which are farrow'd in this Month are very good to breed up, and be sure they have plenty of Food for the first five or six Months, that they may grow large ; for if they are thinly fed in the time of their growth, they will never be made to thrive afterwards.

BEGIN now to stock Hare-Warrens with Leverets.

ABOUT the middle of this Month, is the best time for Turkeys to take their Nest for setting, for then we may expect warm Weather against the time of Hatching ; for the Turkey Poults are very tender.

AS soon as the young Turkeys are hatch'd, give every one of them a whole Pepper-corn with a little Milk, which will prevent their perishing by the Cramp ; it will likewise keep them warm, and bring them to an Appetite for eating. The Food which is frequently used with success, is rotten Eggs boil'd very hard, and chopt very small, with some Clivers or Goose-Grass chopt small, or Wormwood for the most part, and mix'd with them. This I find agrees with them much better
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than Cheesecurds and Wormwood, tho' this is very common, and what I have often used, when I bred Turkeys; but the other I find is preferable, and keeps them warm, besides yielding them good Nourishment, making them thrive abundantly. The young Turkeys may be brought abroad in the warm part of the Day, with the Hen under a Coop, after they are about a Week old; but by no means must have any Rain fall upon them: they are indeed somewhat troublesome for the first Month, but they soon after will shift with the Hen. There have been many Instances of Turkey-Eggs that have been set under a Turkey-Cock, that have come to good; and when this is done, we may set near thirty, for if the Cock be of a large sort, he will cover near as many: but he is a little aukard in the brooding and educating them; for tho' he will brood them, he will every now and then trample some to death. The way of castrating or caponizing of Turkey-Cocks, I believe will make them much larger than otherwise they would be, and of a much finer Flesh; for the Pheasant, the Rabbit, and the Poultry-Cock have been experienced to improve in Flesh by this means; as well as the Ram, the Bull, and the Buck, by being made Wethers,

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Oxen,

Oxen, and Havers : All which, have been experienced to improve greatly by Castration.

THERE is a Breed in some part of the West of *England*, between the Turkey and the *Virginian* Bustard, which produces the largest sort I have yet seen. I have eaten part of one of them, which I judged to excel our common Turkey abundantly in Fineness of Flesh.

THE Bustard, tho' at present 'tis a wild Fowl, and is only found upon large Heaths or Plains, is a most noble Fowl ; and may certainly be bred tame about the Farm, with less trouble than the common Turkeys : their Eggs have been often found, and might be set under Turkeys, to have liberty to run as soon as they are hatched, or else fed like young Pheasants, with the addition of rotten Eggs boil'd hard, and chopped small ; but they should be pinnion'd, as soon as they have gather'd a little Strength, lest they fly away. The manner of pinnioning these and other Fowls, may be taken from the Article of that kind relating to Pheasants, mention'd in this Work. Tho' I am told, that the cross Strain between the Turkey and *Virginian* Bustard, are at liberty to fly

fly and breed in a Gentleman's Park. These Bustards likewise may be caponized as well as Turkeys, to make them larger : the best time will be a little after Harvest, that the Flies may not blow the Wounds. The Down of an Hare, I suppose, is generally known to be excellent for the stopping of Blood, and healing any Wound among Poultry ; I have often try'd it with success. Bustards are common in the Plains of *Northfolk*, *Cambridgeshire*, *Salisbury* Plain, and upon Downs, or in a champaign Country, and their Eggs may be found in *April*.

THERE is still, besides what I have mentioned, an extraordinary Turkey for breeding without trouble, of a bluish colour, brought first into *England*, as I suppose, by *Charles Dubois* Esq; Treasurer of the *East-India* Company : however, he is the only Gentleman that I know of, who has them. The young ones of this sort give no trouble, but go with the Hen, and shift, without any other Care or Assistance.

IN this Month, where firing is scarce, we may sow *French* Furze upon poor Land, 'tis very good Fuel for burning of Bricks, and many household Uses ; it

makes a very quick and brisk Fire, as soon as 'tis cut ; this is very useful in burning of Land.

BRICK Earth may now be dug, and prepared for making of Bricks the next Month.

IN this Month many of your Poultry-Hens will cluck for setting, and in this case chuse the Eggs from good Breeders, and particularly from such as are little more than a year old ; but chuse the old Hens to set upon the Eggs, for they will set close, and bring out the best Brood of Chickens, and take more care to breed them up than the young ones. You may now likewise set Duck-Eggs under Hens, to have a Succession of young Ducks ; for if you set Duck-Eggs in the same manner last Month, you will now have young Ducks, which will bring a good price : so I doubt not but Goose-Eggs might be forwarded in the same manner, but with these Cautions ; that the Hen be of a large Breed, and put no more Eggs under her than she can cover close. Or one might use a method to hatch Eggs, as I have done several years ago, according to the *Egyptian* method, who used to hatch them in Ovens ; but my way is in a hot Bed,

Bed, either made of Horse-Dung or Tan-
ners Bark. Take an Earthen Vessel, like
a Garden Pot, but not quite so deep, fill
it half way with Wool or Cotton, and
lay as many Eggs on the Bed of Wool as
will make a single Layer, so as not to
come within an inch of the sides of the
Vessel; then fill up the Pot with Wool,
covering the Eggs about four Inches, and
set the Pot up to the Rims in the Bed,
and cover the Bed with a Frame and
Glasses, such as you use for Cucumbers,
and these will hatch in due time. But if
then the Weather proves very cold, they
must be carefully nurs'd by the Fire-side;
and if they are Water Fowl, they must
have Pans of Water agreeably warm,
which of their own accord they will go
into. If you can make Fowls lay, you
may always hatch them.

NOW you may transport the Eggs of
many sorts of curious Fowls from one
place to another, in Boxes of Bran close
shut down, to set under Hens, or to
hatch this artificial way, or in Sand-Heats,
as the late Mr. *Darby*, a curious Gardener
at *Hoxton*, has done; but these artificial
Methods are not worth the trouble they
occasion, unless it is that we want to get
into a Stock of curious Sorts, or to

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hatch Green Geese for nice Eaters, at a Guinea a-piece; which I remember has been given for them at a Week old.

WE may yet plant Sets or Twigs, or Truncheons of Willow, Sallow, Alder, Ozier, and such like, in moist and wet Grounds.

NOW is the Season for planting of Madder Setts, in light Soil well plow'd; but it will not be in perfection till the third Year; the Root is the part which is used by the Dyers, and is held to be a very precious Commodity for Dying of Red. But tho' it is a long time in coming to perfection, it brings very rich Crops. As for the first Year, the Farmer may sow the Ground with any low Crop which will be fit to draw or cut before the Summer is over, as Onions, &c.

IN this Month new earth and dress your Hops, putting fresh Earth to the Roots, first pruning them.

NOW feed your Breeding Pheasants with Paffe made of Barley-Meal, mix'd and made into Paffe, with Water and Eggs, beaten Shells; and all this will
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make them lay early, and then keep the Eggs in Bran. Have regard to your Lambs.

SUFFER now no longer any Cattle to feed in your Meadows, but turn them out, and see that all your Fences are in good repair,

IF this Month proves windy, by no means shift your Fish from one Pond to another, unless they are very near one another, for the Winds will kill them; but 'tis now a good Season to dig Ponds.

IN your artificial Warren, examine the young Rabbits, and castrate the Males to grow large.



APRIL.



A P R I L.



THIS Month is for the most part mild and gentle, and frequently subject to Showers ; the Trees and Herbs every day shew us a new Face : Our Orchards bloom and promise the Reward of our Labours, but at the same time the Sluggard, if there can be one among the Farmers, will be exposed. We ought in this Month to see most of our Fields laid down for Crops, if the Weather has been any way favourable ; for any of the common sorts of Corn sown afterwards, will be poor and weak, or perhaps not come up at all, unless we should happen to have dripping Weather in *May*. And as it has already happen'd, that we have had dry *Aprils* and *Mays*, why may we not expect them and provide against them ?
for

for any sort of Weather almost at this Season will keep our Grain, when 'tis once above ground ; but it must be a particular sort that is proper to bring up the Seed, for which reason I advise the sowing our Corn, and cropping our Grounds early, if we can, that we may have the better chance for bringing up our Crops.

IN this Month hough your Carrots and Parsnips, with an Hough that has a four or five-inch Blade, and hough your Onions with one of a two-inch Blade.

NOW carefully weed your Woad-Field, and at the same time take care that the Woad Plants stand single ; for if they grow close together, they spoil one another.

IF the Bark of the Oak will now rise, fell such Oaks as you design, and save the Bark for the Tanners.

WHERE the Grounds have been very wet, there is yet a fortnight in this Month, that one may sow Clover and the other *French Grasses*.

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WE may also sow Spurry-Seed this Month, for it easily comes up, especially if the Ground be a little moist.

THE Buck-Wheat, or Brank, may now be sown in sandy Lands; it is tender, and should not be ventur'd sooner in the Ground; it makes good Fodder for Cattle, and the Grain very good for fattening of Fowls; the Partridge is very fond of it, and may be found there sooner than in other Fields, when the Grain begins to be ripe.

ONE may now produce a Cross-Strain of Fowls, between a Cock Pheasant and the Hens of common Poultry, if we keep a Pheasant Cock in company with six or seven Hens, in a place where there can be no other mixture: the Fowls bred from these will be of a delicate Flesh.

CONTINUE the forcing Meat to the penn'd or tame breeding Pheasants; and as soon as you have Eggs enough, set them under Hens.

NOW you will have a large Increase in your artificial Warren, and take care
to

to examine your Rabbits every day; for some Does will bring ten at one Kindle or Birth, and there should not be left above five to suck the Dams; give the rest to the Dogs, for more than five weakens the Doe, and they never grow large. Observe, that the Males must be castrated, and they will become as large as Hares. Their green Food is now chiefly depending upon Weeds, such as the *Sonchus* or the Sow-thistle, or Colewort Leaves, but the best is the tops of the *Michaelmas* Carrots: but neglect not their dry Meat of Oats, Bran, and Hay. Save now what Buck Rabbits you design to breed from.

YOU may now feed Green Geese or Goslings with Offals of Lettice, till they are fat, and in some Grounds which are sown or planted for lasting Crops, it will be well worth while to sow Lettice for this use; they may be sown among your Liquorice in *February*, or in odd Corners.

IN this Month, the *Morille* is very frequent in woody Places and on dry Banks under Trees; there are abundance at this time of Year in the North Part of *Essex*, and in *Cambridgeshire* about *Trip-low*,

low, Newmarket, Chesterford, Elmden, and near *Walden* they are so singular a rarity, that I cannot avoid acquainting the Farmer of their excellence, that he may not pass them by as things to be disregarded, for they make an excellent Dish either broil'd or stew'd. They are a sort of Mushroom with a long Cap riv'led, and somewhat appearing like an Honey-Comb; and where these are found, the Earth they grow in, has such stringy parts in it, as will produce others: therefore the lovers of them may now collect the Earth to make Beds with, to produce others; but the Earth must be kept very dry, for a little wet will rot the Strings. These are to be had at an easy rate in the Markets. I have observ'd them in many other places besides those I have mention'd, but they are not yet well enough known to be common in the Markets.

THIS Month the Pea-hen begins to lay; the young ones are excellent Meat, and this Fowl may as well be admir'd for its excellence at the Table, as for the beautiful Appearance it makes in the Fields. There is hardly any Bird in the World so gay in Feathers as the Peacock, nor so compleatly shaped. The feeding of this Fowl to be fat for the Table, was of ancient

tient date: *Varro* informs us, that *M. Aufidius Lurco*, who first began to fat this Fowl, made four hundred Pounds a Year of them; and from his Example many others took up the same Business: so that at length the Price grew extraordinary great, even the Eggs were sold for Half a Crown a-piece, and the Peacocks themselves for six or seven and twenty Shillings a-piece. The Flesh of these Fowls has an extraordinary Quality in resisting Corruption or Putrefaction, so that these Fowls will keep fresh and sweet a long time after they are kill'd in the hottest Season; but yet the Flesh is of as easy Digestion as the Flesh of a Pheasant. The Eggs likewise are of an excellent relish, much preferable to Pheasant Eggs, or those of the Guiny-Hen.

WE are told, that the first Peacock that was kill'd at *Rome* for the Table, was given as a new Dish at the Priests Feast by *Hortensius*. There is very little trouble in the keeping of this Fowl, and no expence, for they seek their Food abroad in the Fields and in the Woods. The Life of the Peacock, as the Antients tell us, and particularly *Aristotle*, is five and twenty Years. But I am acquainted with a Gentleman that has now a Peacock
which

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which he bought above thirty Years ago. Besides the common sort, there are of those with white Feathers, which are now in some places in *England*, but are more frequent in *Holland*; they indeed are not so beautiful a Fowl, but their Flesh is preferable to the gay kind. As I have bred Pheasants, I have had the white as well as the common sort, and have cross'd the Strain by coupling a Cock of the wild Colour with a white Hen, and the Pheasant Poult has been partaking of both, partly the wild Colour and partly White in Spots or Mottled. The Cocks of these were extremely beautiful, and I doubt not, if we were to couple the natural colour'd Peacock with a white Pea-hen, that coupling would produce an agreeable Variety.

THE Pea-hen sits thirty days if the Weather be cool, but if it be hot Weather, about eight and twenty days. Sometimes the Eggs of the Pea-hen are set under a common Poultry Hen, and then we must not pretend to set more than five of them, and about four of her own will be as many as she can cover; when she has set a Week, take away her own Eggs, and put under her four fresh Hen-Eggs, that these and the Pea-hen's Eggs may hatch

together; for Hen-Eggs hatch in three Weeks, and the Pea-hens in thirty days: so that by this means of changing the Hen-Eggs, it makes just the time up that both will hatch. And the reason why it is necessary to put Hen-Eggs under the Hen, besides those of the Pea-Fowl, is, because she shall keep close to her Nest, and not forsake it, as otherwise she might do. When I mention this number of Eggs, the Hen must be of a large sort, or else she will not cover so many. During the time of setting, the Eggs must be turned; to do which according to Art, you must mark them on one side before the Hen is set upon them.

WHEN they are hatch'd, keep them in the House a day or two, and then put them into a Pen, such as I have describ'd for young Pheasants in this Work; but let the Pen be a little larger, and take care to keep them from Rain till they are three Weeks old, all the while feeding them with Barley-Meal a little wet with Water, or the Meal of other Corn, and now and then some chopp'd Leeks, and Cheese-Curds after the Whey is well press'd from them; you may likewise give them Bread Crusts boil'd in Milk, and press'd a little from the Milk, but these must be given

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cold.

cold. At about a Month old you may venture them in the Fields with the Hen, if the Land be dry and open to the Sun ; but let the Hen be ty'd by the Leg, so that she cannot range far at first, and that will prevent their running beyond Call, and they may more easily be brought home in the Evening ; but by degrees the Hen may have more liberty, and will with her Brood return home of herself.

ABOUT Harvest-Time you may give the young ones Barley or other Corn, and put them to roost in an House, by no means suffering them to sit upon the Ground, lest they get cold ; but prepare Perches for them, and you may then put them among other Pea-Fowls.

AS for those young ones which the Pea-hens hatch and bring up themselves, they run immediately with their Dams into the Fields, and find their Food if they have liberty ; but if your Pea-hens lay and set in some place appointed for them, it is not thought proper that several Hens and their Broods should feed together, because those who have the smaller number, or the smaller Chickens, make little account of their own, when they see other Hens with more or larger Chic-

Chickens than those of their own breed. Among the common Poultry Hens I have often observ'd a considerable Dispute, seemingly on this occasion ; for Example, when a Hen has a few Chickens, she will not suffer another Hen to come near her that has more Chickens than herself: but whether this is general, I cannot affirm, I only suppose it by many Instances that I have seen of this kind.

THE Pea-hen, when she is at liberty, seeks the most private place for her Nest, that the Cock may not disturb her Eggs, which if he could come at, would be in danger of being destroy'd by his Lust, in treading the Hen even when she is setting upon the Nest ; and therefore it is best to set the Hens, if you have them under government, in such places as may be secret from the Cock ; nor indeed should they come in the way of the Cock till the Chickens are crested on the Head, for before that time the Cock will chase the Chickens and often kill them, but they are then safe from any harm from him.

ONE Peacock will serve seven Peahens, nor should he have less than five, otherwise it is a hazard whether the Eggs be prolifick, or it is also a hazard whether

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he does not kill a single Hen, or even a couple by his Over-Lust.

IF we have a mind to have them breed early, we may give them Beans roasted a little by the Fire about once in four or five days, or let the Beans be thoroughly warm and broken to pieces, or else Paste made of Bean-Flower and Milk, or Barley-Meal and Milk with an Egg, or Spurry-Seed, which will promote their breeding.

IF there are many Cocks, they will be apt to weaken one another by fighting about the treading time, and they should therefore be kept separate; however, if they are all of one Breed, they will live the more quietly together.

THE Hens sometimes will lay or drop their Eggs as they set upon their Perches, and therefore their Perches should not be above four foot from the Ground, and a good quantity of Straw laid under them to save the Eggs.

THE most dangerous time in the breeding these Fowls is just at the time when their Crests are beginning to shoot from their Heads; but that being once past,

past, they may be reckon'd safe and secure as the Chickens of any other Fowl.

WE may transport Fish this Month from one Pond to another, if that work was not done in *February*: the way of carrying them is to lay your Carps, Tench or Jacks, upon clean dry Wheat Straw, and the Time of doing that Work should be in the Evenings after Sun-set, or before the Sun-rise.

WE may also this Month make Ponds or Canals in such Places as are boggy, or too much subject to the Waters, for here one can hardly expect to make any great matter by planting or sowing, unless it be with Oziers or Willows; but Ponds of good Fish will turn to very good account. In the making of Ponds or Canals, there is one way which may be taken, that will much contribute to the growth of the Fish, and be a means to prevent the Ponds being robb'd; and that is, by cutting a Channel about four or five Foot deep, thro' the middle of the Canal or Pond, to run length-ways; and if the other part of the Canal be about four or five Foot deep in Water, then in this part it may be about ten Foot deep, and there the large Fish will like to

shelter themselves. And besides, in frosty Weather, in this deep Water, the Fish will have room, and in the warmer Seasons it will be impossible to draw such Ponds by Night, without the Hazard of the Men's Lives, if they were to go into the Ponds : and if they were to use Drag-Nets, which could reach quite cross the Pond, to be drawn by Men upon the Banks ; these Nets would draw quite over the Fish, who would all fly to this deep place of shelter ; but the Owner in the Day-time might send a Couple of Men into the Water, who with a Drag-Net, made on purpose to fit the Channel in the middle, might take what Fish they pleas'd without danger ; but for their greater safety, may have Lines strain'd on each side the Channel to be their Guides.

IF this Month proves very warm, Carps will spawn, and the Females will sicken after Spawning, so that they will then be very unwholesome and unfit for eating, till about five or six Weeks afterwards. If possible, suffer no Eels in your Carp-Ponds, for they devour the Spawn of your Fish.

DESTROY Water-Rats, for now they begin to breed, and will soon raise a large Colony, which will devour your young Fish. The best way to do it, is with Crackers made with Gun-powder and Paper; half a dozen or half a score ty'd to a String of quick Match, three or four Inches asunder, and with a Willow Twig put them into the Holes, and then with a lighted Match and a few Dogs begin the Attack, by setting Fire to the quick Matches, which will let off the Crackers, and frighten the Rats out of their Holes, which the Dogs will then destroy, or give them such an Alarm, as will drive them to some other Quarter.

WE may yet plant Madder, if the Weather be moist.

YOU may now cut your Woad and weed the whole, hough and weed all your standing Crops, before the Weeds run to Seed; it will save you a great deal of trouble hereafter.

CUT up Thistles in your Grass, 'twill destroy the Roots, and prevent their seeding and sowing themselves over the Country; for they have wing'd Seeds, and a

little Wind will spread them a Mile or two.

IF the Season be dry, water your new-planted Liquorice, as well as the Plantation of Madder made in *March*.

WHEN your Hops are shot about six Inches, pole them; and if they are strong Hills, give them Poles of 15 or 20 Foot long, three Poles to each Hill will be enough; and so place them, that the Tops of the Poles may incline outwards as much as they conveniently can. This should be, because the Hops, when they are run up, should not entangle with one another, but lie open and free, so as to admit the Air and Sun: set the Poles a Foot deep in the Earth, keep your Hill free from Weeds, and if your Hops are the first year's Planting, water them if the Season be very dry.

IN such Hop-Grounds as are planted this Spring, you may set the *Windsor* broad Beans in Rows between the Hop-Hills.

THE Grass now carrying a good Sword or Blade, your Cows will give abundance of Milk, and the Dairy will pro-

produce good store of Butter ; so now likewise thin Cheeses, and those which are call'd Cream Cheeses, should be made for the *London* Markets. I observe, that the finest bladed Grass brings the richest Milk, tho' in smaller Quantities than the large rank Grass.

IF your Fields are annoy'd with Crow Garlick, 'tis now the time to root it out, and well worth while to employ Women to do it ; for if Cows feed where it is, their Milk will taste strong of Garlick, and neither will your Cheese or Butter be good : likewise where your Cows feed, take care to weed out the Plant call'd *Alliaria* or Sauce alone, or by some, Jack in the Hedge ; for the Leaves of it have the Onion Flavour, and will give an unpleasant taste to the Milk of those Cows which eat of it. The Country People in many places eat the Leaves of this with Bread and Butter, making it serve instead of Onions.

NOW sell off your Winter-fed Cattle, and buy in Cattle for Summer feeding, which you may turn into your Marshes, if you have any which you do not design to mow.

UP.

UPON some of your dry, warm and light Grounds, sow Kidney-Beans, of those sorts which do not run, such as the *Battersea* Bean, or the *Turkey* Bean; these Beans may be partly gather'd green, and partly saved for Seed, both which, will be very profitable: about *Battersea* and *Wandsworth*, Fields are sown of them every year.

AT the beginning of this Month gather Elm-Seed, and after you have kept it a few days, till it changes yellow, sow it in Beds in very fine Earth, cover'd about half an Inch deep, and spread a Net over the Bed to keep the Birds from it, for they are very voracious of it; keep it moderately moist, and it will soon come up.

AT this time of the year the Farmers buy young Calves to suckle, and fatten them for the *London* Markets, and make great Profit of them.

STILL continue to take care of House-Lambs.

CLEANSE Ditches and Ponds, and collect whatever may be useful for enriching
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ing of Land, to be made into large Heaps.

YOUR Bees this Month will be full of Work; and I have known them swarm about the end, but that depends chiefly upon the warmth of the Weather, as I have mention'd in *February*: therefore if such Weather happens, and you find them begin to cluster about the Mouth of the Hive, watch them in the heat of the Day, and stick some Sprigs of Fennel and Baum in the Bushes near at hand, which if they fly, will entice them to settle there. It has been a common way to beat a Kettle, or some Brass Vessel, as soon as they rise, in order to make them settle near at hand; but the best way is to fire a Pistol, charged only with Powder, between them and the Hive, about ten Yards behind them, and they will settle upon the first Bush they can come at; this will bring them down, if they are risen forty or fifty Yards in the Air.

IF this Season proves very hot and dry, happy is the Farmer who can water his Meadows.

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IF the Cater-pillar begins to take your Orchards, or there should happen to be blighting Winds, make heaps of Straw to the Windward, and set them on fire, immediately covering the Fires with wet Straw, to make them smoke the more.

IN some of the richest Grounds about *London*, I have known Grass has been cut at the end of this Month ; the reason was, that it grew extremely thick, and began to turn yellow at the bottom, and would have rotted there : the Fields I speak of, had always been kept in good heart, by spreading every Autumn upon them the Cleanings of Cow-yards, that had been collected the same Year. But most commonly 'tis the following Month, which is the Hay-Harvest within a dozen Miles round *London*, and in the Southern parts of *England* ; but more Inland, the Hay-Harvest commonly begins in *June*.

IF your Barley is now rank, either mow it or feed it ; but the first *May* is the best, but either of them will make your Corn spread into many Branches, and yield plentifully.

IF, according to custom, the Farmer is resolv'd to lay any of his Ground fallow, this is commonly the Month, especially if it be dry ; but this in my opinion is only done where Judgment is wanting : for to change Crops gives as much rest to the Ground as Fallowing, and brings more profit to the Farmer ; besides, by the changing of Crops, the continued working of the Ground will render it fine and tender.

COLLECT Leverets for your Hare-Warren.

THIS Month is the pairing time for Partridges, and where you now hear them call in the Evening, you may expect a Covey if they are not disturb'd.



M A T.



M A Y.

THIS Month generally proves hot and dry ; but the Dews are very great and nourishing. We may expect however some passing Showers with Thunder, which are not disagreeable to the Farmer, they are refreshing to the standing Crops, and cannot do the Grass, if there is any cut, any damage.

N O W again look after your Hop-Garden, observing no Weeds annoy your Plants, and gently tie your Hop-Wires or Runners to the Poles : this may be done with Brasses, or with fine Rushes, or else with green Shoots of Broom ; but the Shoots of the *Spanish* Broom bring the longest and strongest Shoots, and may as well

well be propagated in the Fields as in the Gardens, not only for the Value of its Binds or Shoots, but for the sake of its Flowers, which are very good for Bees, and enrich an Apiary extremely. Expect your Bees to swarm, and watch them, observing the Directions in the foregoing Month.

HAVE an eye to your Woad Field, to keep it clean from Weeds; and when the Leaf is full grown, it is time to cut it.

THIS Month your breeding Mares should be brought to the Stallion, for this is the Season when they are in their highest Strength and Pride.

THE Ways are now good, and continue to collect Manures for your Lands into large Heaps.

CLEANSE Ponds and Ditches; for that work in some places may now be done better than at any other time of the Year; and the Stuff taken out of them is of extraordinary use to such Land as is accounted poor, if we would have it bring Corn: but I am satisfied that there is no Land, however poor it may be thought
by

by Farmers, who have only follow'd the old way, but may be made as profitable as the best Corn-Land in *England*, only by adapting to it such Plants as are natural to it; and by degrees may be brought to bear Corn, if we please, by chusing a right Succession of Crops. I now know several Parcels of Land in *England*, which are not set at more than Six-pence an Acre, which I would rather chuse, than some that are now let for three Pounds an Acre: some Gentlemen, who have follow'd my Advice, have already found their Advantage, by cultivating some Lands which had always been esteemed fit for no use; and many more may do the same, if they had Spirit enough to break through Custom.

NOW begin to prepare your Ground for Saffron, by plowing it shallow, for it must have another deeper Plowing the next Month, before you plant the Saffron, provided the Surface or Staple will bear it. A light Loam or middle Soil a little tender, is such as will do best for Saffron; but I have seen it prosper very well in common heathy Ground, which is such as is sandy, and mix'd with small Roots. The very stiff Ground is not proper for it, unless it can be made tender by Coal-Ashes,

Ashes, sharp Sand or light fresh Mould, or such other Manure as will open its parts ; Dung, which is the chief Manure, that is now used in those Places which are famous for Saffron, is of bad consequence to the Roots which are bulbous, by breeding a Canker in them ; and tho' this is now the only Manure used by our Farmers for Saffron-Grounds, yet is there no more reason for it, but that it has been a Custom to lay on as much Dung upon an Acre, as commonly amounts to eight or ten Pounds value, and in some places a great deal more ; but my Experience teaches me, that a fresh Earth, a little light, if it has about five or six Inches Surface or Staple, with a tolerable Bottom, will do much better than all the forced Earth by Dungs. For this is like all other bulbous Roots, which abhor Dungs, and will blow as strong again in a natural Soil, as they will in a mix'd forced Soil, and the larger the Blossom, so much the larger the Root will be ; and the Strength of a Plant one Year denotes a Strength of the same Plant another Year. One Reason perhaps why all the Saffron Planters use Dungs for manuring their Grounds, is, because those of *Saffron-Walden*, where the Saffron was first planted in *England*, have used them-

selves to that Method ever since the first
 bringing it into *England*, which I am
 inform'd, was done by Sir *Walter Ra-*
leigh from *Spain*; but I am satisfied late-
 ly, it is a Plant growing without Culture
 now in *China*, from whence I suppose
 the *Spaniards* or *Portuguese* first receiv'd
 it. So that 'tis no wonder if it gets over
 our Winters, for some parts of *China*
 are but a few Degrees more South than
Saffron-Walden. From hence I would
 have a Farmer learn, that he is not under
 a Necessity of using Dung for the Cul-
 ture of Saffron, for it grows wild in
China; he may reasonably suppose that
 there is no occasion to give wild Plants
 or Weeds any Dung to make them grow
 better than they do naturally, especially
 when they are removed to a Climate so
 little different from *China* as *England*
 is: let the Farmer only consider that
 every Plant is natural to some Place or
 other, and then he may be sure that they
 will all grow, thrive, and bear Fruit
 without Dung, if they are removed into
 Climates that are agreeable to those from
 whence they took their birth. Corn of
 several kinds grows wild in *Sicily*; and
 yet there is nothing of that sort propa-
 gated in *England*, but must be fed by
 Dungs: surely our Farmers and Gardeners
 can't

can't imagine that Dungs have any heat in them after they have lost their Fermentation; the Gardeners especially may be sure of this, because by their common Experience, they find that after a Month or two all their hot Beds made of Dung have lost their heat, and then become much colder than common Earth; and after this, if the Farmers use this Dung upon their Land, as they commonly practise, can they expect any heat or ferment from it to force their Plants forward? Dungs however, when they are rotted, so as to become fine as Earth, may help stiff Soils, as Sand or any light Bodies may do; and undoubtedly we find that vegetable Bodies, when they are so perfectly consumed, as to become mere Earth, are then so long as they are untry'd, or unsown, full of Nourishment proper for any Plant; so that then the use of Dung is not to be practised for the Nourishment of Plants, till it can be brought to be like Earth itself, and then it will do as much good as any fine untried Earth that one can get.

THIS is the best Month for Distilling of Cordial-Waters, and for drying of Herbs. Gather Elder-Flowers to dry, but take care to gather them in the

heat of the Day, and dry them in the Shade.

IT is now a Season of the Year when the forward Grass-Grounds and Meadows should be mow'd for Hay ; the best Judgment that can be made of the time, when Grass should be cut for Hay, is when we find the Grass going to Seed, or that the Seed-Stems are full grown. Some Grasses indeed are sooner ripe than others, and there is no Field without mixture ; but we must judge by the prevailing Grass in the Field, and should observe whether that is in Perfection, before we offer to mow our Meadow : we must examine too, whether our Grass begins to turn yellow at the bottom, as well in the Blade as in the Stalk ; for if it does, there must be no time lost, for 'twill soon spoil all the rest if it was to stand : and our next regard must be to the Weather, whether it is likely to be a wet or dry Season, for on that depends our whole Success. If the Weather seems to be settled fair, then we may cut our Grass, according to the Rules of Reason ; but if it has already been very dry for several Weeks before, and our Ground be dry by nature, with a gravelly bottom, then to cut our Grass would

would do the whole a Diskindness ; for the Roots of the Grass would be greatly weaken'd by the too great influence of the Sun, and hardly give us any other Crop the same year, and the Ground also would be subject to crack. Therefore where this is understood, I have found that to feed such Grass is much better than to mow it, even tho' it is grown to a pitch of ripeness ; for while the Cattle are feeding upon it, there may likely come Rain sufficient to enrich the Earth, so as to bring a good After-crop ; the feeding will give opportunity to admit the Air and Sun gently to the Roots, without scorching them, and assist our Cattle at the same time in such a manner, as would make them perhaps as much more valuable as the price of the Meat they fed upon would amount to ; but we shall suppose, that every thing concurs for the mowing of Grass. We must let our Grass lie as thin as possible at the first, in the Day-time, if the Weather be fair, and against the Evenings make it up at first in small Cocks, which must be spread soon in the Morning, if the fair Weather is likely to continue ; but if the Weather inclines to Rain, let it remain in Cocks till it is fair. By degrees, in good Weather, as the Grass

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grows

grows dry, the Cocks may be enlarged, till at length the Hay is quite dry, and fit to carry into the Barn, or be made in Stacks or Ricks : but especial regard must be had to the Dryness of the Hay before it be carry'd in; for if any Moisture is remaining in it, it will be subject to Fermentation, and burn, even so as to take fire, and consume all your Store. Many whole Crops have been lost by this means, so that a Farmer cannot be too careful in this particular.

THE upland Grass will be much sooner made into Hay than the lowland Grass; for the Grass of the Uplands is generally fine and small, and has few Juices in comparison of the Low-land or Marsh Hay. So the Trefoils, Clovers, Saintfoine, Lucerne, and other *French* Grasses, will take more time to dry, than any of the common Grasses, because those abound in Juices. This is the Season for mowing all the *French* Grasses in the warmer parts of the Kingdom, but they defer it in some places till *June*.

ABOUT

ABOUT the end of the Month, those Pease or *Spanish* Beans which were sown early, will be fit to gather for eating green, and will bring good Profit in the Markets about *London*.

WEED Woad, Weld, Liquorice, Madder, and other lasting Crops.

IN this Month you may expect your Pheasants to hatch, which must then be put into a Box about four Foot long, thirteen Inches deep, and thirteen Inches wide, with a Partition for the Hen fourteen Inches from one End, divided from the other part of the Box by Palisades three or four Inches asunder, for the going out of the young Pheasants to feed; that Part assign'd for the Hen must be close cover'd at top, and the Part of the Box where the Pheasant-Poults are to feed, must only be cover'd with a Net to keep the Sparrows and other Birds from eating up the Meat. In this Box confine your Pheasants for ten Days, giving them during that time the following Food: Collect from the Woods the black Horse-Emits Eggs, or some of the red Emits Eggs; but the black Horse-Emits are the best, provided

the Emits themselves are kill'd, for they will sting the young Pheasants, and make them neglect their Meat till they starve. The way of killing these, is to put Earth, and Eggs, and Emits all together in a Barrel, so that the Barrel be not above half or three quarters full; then light some Brimstone Rags and put into the Vessel, and cover it close up, now and then shaking it, while the smother of the Brimstone remains; and when that is over, one may put some of the same Rags with Brimstone a second time into the Vessel, that the live Emits may be destroy'd, or so much weaken'd, that we may easily kill them, or separate them from the Eggs. When then we have our Emits Eggs thus prepar'd, and the Emits kill'd, we may pick them clean from the Earth, and throw them into the feeding part of the Box, a few at a time, repeating it every half Hour. But if you feed with the red Emits Eggs, which you may do the first three or four Days after hatching, you need not kill the Emits, for they will do the Pheasant-Poults no harm; but their Eggs are very small, and it is troublesome to get enough of them. Besides these Emits Eggs, they must have for the first six Days, while they are in the Box, a
Paste

Paste made for them of Barley Flower, beat up with an Egg, Shell and all, without adding Water, or any Liquor to it. It must be of such a Consistence, that you may rub it between your Fingers into small Pellets, as big, and of the shape of the black Ant Eggs; but make not these Pellets but just while you are feeding them, and when you find they will eat no more, fling them some Emits Eggs, which will create in them a fresh Appetite. During the first six Days that they are in the Box, give them some Milk in a shallow tin Pan, without any Water at all, taking care that the Milk does not turn sour. About the seventh Day, give them Milk and Water mix'd in equal Quantities, and then make their Paste of Milk and Barley-Flower, with some fine powder of Egg-shells in it, but none of the Egg itself. About the tenth Day remove them out of the Box, and set the Hen under a Coop upon a green Plat, making a Fence around the Coop about five Foot clear of it, and about a Foot and a half high: this may be done with Boards or Wires, as you please. This Fence is to keep them from wandering too far from the Hen, before they are strong enough to struggle with Weeds, or other Inconveniences,

cies, which they will be apt to meet with in their Progress. And now bring them to drink all Water, and make their Paste of Barley-Meal, Water, and Egg-shells powder'd, not forgetting to give them Emits Eggs always after this feeding.

AFTER their Confinement in this Pen upon the Grass-Plat for a Week, that is, when they are about seventeen Days old, remove them upon a fresh green Plat, and give them liberty to run or fly where they please till *Michaelmas*; but they will not leave the Hen, unless frightened out of their knowledge by Dogs, &c. and then will soon be brought together by the Call of the Hen, or a Whistle, which we may use them to when we feed them. And now you may omit the trouble of killing or weakening the Emits, the Pheasants being by this time a match for them; but give it not all over at once, but bring them to struggle with these stinging Insects by degrees, and continue feeding them as before, till there is new Corn, and then give them a little in the ear, and afterwards some Pease. This Method I had from Mr. *Brewer of Tunbridge in Wiltshire*, a very curious Gentleman

tleman in all the pleasant and profitable Branches belonging to a Country Life. The same Method may be used for the breeding of Partridges.

CONTINUE to feed your Fish, as before directed, in order to tame them.

CONTINUE still to store your Hare-Warrens with Leverets.

NOW is the time to raise Fawns, for they are dropt this Month, and may easily be brought up, by giving them New-Milk three or four times a day for a Fortnight, till they begin to take other Food.

STILL take care to have housed Lambs; and you may now likewise wean Lambs, for the Milk of the Ewes is used in some places for making of Cheese, being mix'd with Cows Milk. This is the best Season for making of Cheese to keep; the Cattle are now full of Milk; and 'tis likewise now a proper time for salting and putting up of Butter.

'TIS a proper Season to weed Corn.

TURN

TURN milch'd Cattle, and such as you design to feed, into fresh Pasture.

STILL continue to drain Lands, and make Fish-Ponds. The Ways are now good for Carriages; therefore when the Teams are not otherwise engaged, bring home Wood for Fuel, or Timber; and carry your several Manures to proper places to be laid in heaps.

THIS is the Month to destroy Broom, by cutting it. So now also grub up such Bushes as annoy your Ground.

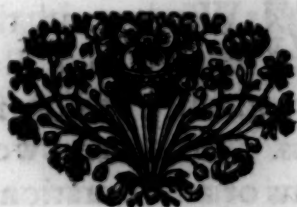
WE may now turn Calves to grass.

'TIS now a good time to destroy Fern, by mowing it.

IN your artificial Warren, the Rabbits will chiefly subsist by green Food. Geld the young Buck Rabbits, and suffer no more than five young ones to live out of each Kindle.

WE may, till the middle of this Month, sow Buck-Wheat for Fodder; but 'tis better done in *April*.

SOW Pease for a latter Crop. Take care of your young Turkeys, that they are frequently fed, and are kept dry, and shelter'd in the Nights.



JUNE.



J U N E.



HE Weather this Month is commonly very hot and dry, unless we have westerly Winds; and then we may expect cold Blasts, which I have already given a reason for in my other Works. However, we are not to expect Rains of any duration; a Shower or two perhaps we may have; but 'tis uncertain.

THIS Month in the Inland-Countries is a busy Time with the Hay-Makers, tho' in the warmer Parts of *England*, the Hay-Harvest is commonly over by this time. In these late places begin with the *French* Grasses, such as St. Foine, Clover, Lucern, &c. and end with the common Grass; for as I observed in the former Month, the *French* Grasses take a longer
time

time to dry or make into Hay, than our common Grass.

NOW examine your Banks and Ditches in your Marsh or Fenny Grounds, and put them in repair, cleaning your Ditches and making good the Sluices and Dams. Take the Mud from Ponds or Moats, that it may dry, and be fit to lay in an heap with your other Manure.

IF your Teams are not now busy in the Field, continue to carry Fuel and Timber, and get together such Manures as may be wanting against the Winter.

FALLOW Grounds may be now fresh turn'd with the Plow, to destroy the Weeds. So now likewise is a good time to break up Grass-Grounds, they will be fit for sowing in the Winter.

CONTINUE to watch your Bees, for in some places you will have Swarms; to prevent their flying away, see the Directions in *April*.

EXAMINE your Fields sown with Mustard-Seed, and if the Pods are full seeded, and the Seeds begin to turn colour, pull up the Plants and set them upright

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right together, till the Seed is full ripe, and then thrash it out as soon as may be.

THE forward Pease will now be ripe in the warmer parts of the Country; cut them up, and when they are well dry'd, carry them home.

CUT again your Woad, if the Leaves are full grown, and keep it clean from Weeds.

PLOW your Pea-Grounds, and sow Turnips, which will come in early.

IN wet and boggy Grounds lately broke up, sow Cole-Seed or Rape.

THIS is the properest Month for planting of Saffron, therefore now second plow the Ground you design'd for it, and make the Land as fine as possible: and as at this time of the Year the Roots are to be sold in *Cambridgeshire* in great plenty, one may there be stored with them at a small expence. In the Education of this Plant I take the liberty to deny the Use of Dung, having in several Experiments found that Saffron will thrive much better without it, if you have a Soil tolerable light; and 'tis to no purpose to try

try it in stiff Ground : see my Reasons for it in the preceding Month ; and I shall here set down the Method of planting it. When your Ground is well plow'd and levell'd, make your first Line for Saffron with an Hough, whose Blade is four Inches wide, so that the Furrow which is made by drawing that Hough along, may be about five Inches deep. When this Furrow is made, plant your Saffron at the bottom, allowing between four and five Inches distance betwixt the Roots. Then draw another Furrow in like manner as before, close by the side of the first, so that the bottom of it, where the Roots are to be planted, may be about five Inches from the Line of Roots in the first Furrow. By the opening of the second Furrow, the Roots in the first will be cover'd with Earth ; then plant the second Furrow with Roots as you did the first, and make a third Furrow to be planted like the others : and so continue making Furrows and planting them, till you have made a Bed of about four foot wide, then leave a narrow Path about fourteen Inches, or, as some do, eighteen Inches wide, and begin afresh to make Furrows, and plant as at first, till you have a second Bed as wide as the first. And then leaving an Alley

or Path as before, continue the Work in like manner, till the whole Piece is planted; and you may then lightly go over every Bed with a Rake. When this is done, take care that Cattle do not go over it, to trample it, or harden the Ground.

IT is necessary when the Saffron is planted, to fence in the whole Piece with Hurdles, to defend it from the Hares, who will greatly annoy it when the Leaves or Flowers begin to appear above ground, which by no means must be suffer'd; for the cropping of the Leaves only, while they are growing, or till they decay of themselves, will weaken the Roots to such a degree, that they will not blow at all.

IN a very hot Day wash your Sheep for sheering, which may be done the Day following, if the Weather be dry; but if the Weather prove cold and moist, defer the Sheep-sheering a little longer, lest your Sheep get the Rot by the too great Moisture and Coldness of the Earth.

CONTINUE still to make Cheese; and you may yet salt and make up Butter for keeping, or transportation.

LOOK to your Hop Grounds, keeping the Hills clean from Weeds, and tie up those Wires or Binds which ramble; but take care that they are not bruised by tying, for our Hop-Vines are very brittle, and a small Bruise will hurt them: which is the reason that some tie them with Worsted, and that they should never be suffer'd to grow loose from the Poles, for a little Wind will do them harm. In this weeding, it is not necessary to give any new Earth out of the Alleys to our Hop-hills; for if they are got to the top of the Poles, as they ought to be this Month, it is a sign that they are vigorous enough, and should rather be restrain'd than encourag'd: for too much Vigour in their shooting will prevent their bearing, as well as any other Plant that bears Fruit; for the Hop is the Fruit of the Plant. However, if your Wires or Binds are not strong enough to reach the top of the Poles this Month, cut or pinch off the top Bud.

IF the Season is very hot and dry, and the Wires are not too luxuriant, water your Hops; and especially when they begin to put out their Bells, water them well in a dry Season; for when you once

see the Flower appear, then 'tis no matter how much you encourage the Plants, for it will make the Hop large. It is recommended by an Artift in this way, to infuse Sheep or Pidgeon's Dung in the Water that we use for the Nourishment of the Plants.

THE Plantations of Hops, which you have made this Year, must be encouraged by all possible means; for the stronger they grow the first Year, the better will be their first Crop.

THIS Month your young Turkeys may run abroad with their Hens, for now they are past all danger.

THE Rabbits in your artificial Warren, may still have their greater share of Food to consist of Greens.

FLING some of your Mowings of fine Grass into your Carp-Ponds, and continue to feed them at the fix'd Places, to keep them tame, and make them thrive.

PONDS or Moats may still be made, as directed in the foregoing Months.

IN this Month, Pidgeons in the Dove-Cots will lay for the second Flight.

NOW begins your great Harvest for Cherries, and 'tis therefore necessary to keep a Boy continually in the Cherry-Orchards, to frighten the small Birds or the Rooks that would destroy them : but Cherry-Orchards are not of the same Value remote from *London*, as they are near *London*, and especially they should be near Water-carriage. However, there is one thing to be observ'd, that where there are many of them together, and a few of them happen to be earlier than the rest, I am persuaded that the Owners of the latter Orchards, may make much more Advantage of theirs, if they kept their Cherries ungather'd till there was a Scarcity in the Markets ; for late Fruits, as well as early Fruits, sell well : nay, I have known in the Affair of Pease and Beans, those which have come at the end of the Year have sold for more Money than the first Crops ; for our Farmers commonly sow all together, and so have their Crops come in all together ; and the Consequence is, the Markets are glutted, and they all suffer. But a Farmer, who has Wit enough to sow such Crops out of Season, will come to the Market alone, and may get a good

Price. But this Month the sowing of Beans and Pease is rather of the latest, except till about the tenth Day, and then I should chuse the Hotspur-Pea rather than any other, or the second Dwarf-Pea, which will soonest come to bear; and of the Beans, the *Spanish* or *Portugal* Bean, which Mr. *Thomas Fowler*, now Gardener to Sir *Nathaniel Gould* at *Stake-Newington*, has try'd, for a late Crop, and assures me has brought a much more plentiful Crop, than the broad Bean. And it is plain, that these sorts will bear much sooner from the Seed, and of what we sow very early in the Year, than the larger kinds of Beans and Pease, which we generally sow in *March* and *April*; for these last, in a very dry Season, run all up in Haulm, and therefore if they are sown late, will come to little or nothing.

IF sudden Gusts of Wind with Showers happen this Month, the Corn is often laid in some places, which makes the Expence of reaping and mowing about half as much more as it would be if it was upright; but if this happens in one place, it is not every where: and yet the Price of Corn is generally raised at this time of Year, upon pretence that the Corn has been beat down by Showers: But there is a much better reason than that might
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be given, which is, that at this season the Farmer is crowded with Expences, either in his Hay-Harvest, in which he is oblig'd to employ a great Number of People, which he must pay ready Money to; or else he is oblig'd to raise Money for his Corn-Harvest, which must take up and employ all the Hands he can get, and who he must pay likewise Money to as soon as they have done their Work: so that I think in letting of Estates to farm, *Midsummer* should not be one of the Pay-days to the Landlord, because generally 'tis the Farmer's most expensive Time; and with some Farmers, all the ready Money they can raise will barely do, to get in their Crops.

THE Pheasants hatched the beginning of the last Month, will now grow pretty strong, and may be suffer'd to run with the Hen. See the Directions for breeding them in *May*. We may with a little care make them come to any Call as well as Partridges, which I have bred to that familiarity, that they have follow'd me wherever I suffer'd them to go.

IT is now the time for young Partridges in the Fields; but they are small, and should not yet be disturb'd.

THE Fawns of last Month will now eat almost any thing, and may be brought to any tameness. I once bred up a Leash, and made them so familiar with my Greyhounds, that for several Months in the coursing Season they used to run with the Dogs. I only produce it as an Instance, how easy it is to make any wild Creature tame and familiar, to such as may think such an Undertaking may be agreeable to them, for there are many Gentlemen who are Farmers; and I am persuaded, that the more engaging that Business can be made, the more pleasure the Farmers will take; who ought, I think, to have some Pleasure intermix'd with their hard Labour. But the Fawns, if they are fed with Oats about *Michaelmas* for three Weeks, or at any time afterwards, if we design to kill them, will grow very fat, and pay very well for their keeping.



JULY.



JULY.



THIS Month is generally very hot, but sometimes attended with Storms of Hail and Rain, which beat off the Apples, &c. and often lay the Corn; but these last not long.

IN some places, tho' in very few, the Hay-Harvest is not yet over; and in some forward Grounds, where the Hay was cut about the end of *April*, there will be now a second Crop, if there have been Showers in *May*, and the foregoing Month. The necessary Observations for making of Hay, see in the Month of *May*. I hold, it will be much better for the Grass of any Meadow, to cut but one Crop in a year, and feed the rest; for often cutting weakens the Grass.

NOW comes in your full Crop of Broad Beans and Kidney Beans for eating; but the Broad Beans will not be fit to gather for Seed till the end of the next Month,

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Month, and the Kidney Beans about the end of *September*.

A B O U T the end, draw your earliest Hemp and Flax in dry Weather, and set it to dry well, before you carry it home. When the Seed of the Flax turns downward, it is a sign the Flax is fit to pull.

S O W Turnips upon light Land, without Dung, the first Fortnight in this Month: but after that time, it will be too late for them to apple well, or make large Roots before Winter.

N O W also is a good time to sow Cole and Rape-Seed in such Lands as are lately recover'd from the Waters.

I N this Month your Carraway-Seed will be ripe, and must be carefully cut in dry Weather, and the Ground clean'd from Weeds; for this Crop will bear two or three Years successively.

A B O U T the end, your Coriander-Seed will be ripe, and should be gathered in dry Weather.

A B O U T the end of this Month, your Hops will begin to be in Bell or Blossom;
and

and then keep them well water'd, to prevent the Mildew ; and also pare the Alleys, and fling up the Earth upon the Hills. Clean likewise your Hop-Hill from Weeds, and lay them in heaps. Some advise also to strip the Leaves from the Binds of the Hops about two or three foot from the ground, that the Air may pass among them with more freedom.

THIS Month is also a good Season for planting of Saffron : See how that Work is perform'd in the preceding Month.

IF the Weather is subject to Wet, take care to house your Pheasant-Poults every Night about an Hour before Sun-set, and let them out again early in the Morning. If you have a place well fenced for them with a Wall or high Pale, let some part of it be planted or sown with *French Furze*, for that is the best Shelter for them.

NOW mind your common Poultry, setting all those Hens that are inclined to it ; for Chickens hatch'd in *August* will sell well about *Christmas*.

NOW begins the Corn-Harvest in the forward Countries, when fair Weather is to be wish'd for, that the Corn may be
tho-

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thoroughly dry before it be housed; or else it will be in danger of heating, and of growing musty.

IF the Weather proves very wet, as it did in the Year 1725, it is adviseable to cut the Ears of the Corn, if it is full ripe, and carry them into your Barn clean swept, and spread them thin on the Floor, keeping them often turning, and give them often as much Air as possible; and upon every opportunity of Sun-shine to spread them upon Sail-cloths, and bring them abroad till they are quite dry. In the last bad Year, some who follow'd my Advice in this particular, saved a great deal of Corn, which otherwise would have been lost; but this need not be done but when there is a prospect of continued Rains: the Straw may be cut afterward.

WEED your Madder, Woad, and Liquorice.

GIVE your Turnips sown last Month their first houghing, with an Hough whose Blade is four Inches wide: and also hough your Carrots and Parsnips that were sown in the Spring.

IF the Weather be dry, cut your Pea-haulm,

haulm, and draw such Beans whose Seed is ripe, binding up the Beans in Bundles.

WATER such Pease as were sown for latter Crops, which may be easily done with a Barrow and Water-Tub that has a Spout with a Rose at the end, like that of a Watering-Pot: This a Man may wheel between the Drills of Pease without hurting them, and the Crop will pay very well for the Labour.

NOW examine your Weld or Dyers Weed, for the Seed is commonly ripe about the end of the Month, which is the time to gather it: the way to do which, is to gather it, or pull it up, and bind it in little Sheaves to be set up for drying; but it must be done carefully, for fear of shedding the Seed. When it is thoroughly dry, carry it home, and thrash out the Seed immediately, and the Herb is then fit for the Dyers use. It must be kept very dry, for a little wet will spoil it.

IN this Month your Cole-Seed is commonly ripe enough to cut, which you may know by opening a Pod or two; and if the Seeds are full grown, and begin to change to a brown Colour, you may then reap it, laying small parcels of it together to dry, which will commonly take

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take up about fifteen days. When you perceive it is dry enough, gather it carefully in large Sheets, and carry it to the Barn to be thrash'd immediately ; for the Seed is very apt to shed when it is full ripe.

CONTINUE still to make Ponds, and drain Lands, or repair Banks that have been damaged in fenny places.

WHEN the Teams are not employ'd in the Field, carry Wood for Timber or Fuel, and continue to collect Manures for your Land against the Winter Seed-time.

CUT Turf, Peat, and *French Furze* for Winter Firing. Fresh plow your Fallows, which will destroy Weeds, and mellow the Ground.

TOWARDS the end, turn your Geese into the Stubble, and take Partridges to put into the Mew : You may now easily tame them.

ABOUT the end, put up some Swine to fatten for Porkers, to be ready about *Bartholomew-Tide*.

NOW look after your Bees, and help them to kill the Drones, Wasps, or other Insects that annoy them.

DESTROY Wasp-Nests by burning them, or smothering them, by putting lighted Brimstone Rags into their Holes, and stopping them up.

CONTINUE to feed your Pond-Fish, as directed in the preceding Months.

THE greatest share of your Food for Rabbits in your Artificial Warren, may still be green Meat.

YOU may now expect a Flight of Pidgeons from your Dove-Cott.

THIS is the Season for Floppers, that is, for the young Wild-Ducks, to take wing.

NOW cut your Tills or Lentils, and also your Tares and Vetches will be ripe about this time, and fit for cutting; but let them be very well dry'd before they be carry'd home.

THE Heat of the Season now makes that Receipt very useful, which I have
men-

mention'd in *January*, concerning the preserving of Fowls.

CONTINUE still watching your Cherry-Orchards, to keep away Rooks and other Birds from destroying your Fruit; for your Cherries which are yet upon the Trees, are of great worth.

TAKE great care to air your Granaries, if you have any great store of thrash'd Corn by you; and if your Corn happens to be annoy'd by the Weule or Wevle, lay some Sprigs or Branches of the *Parietaria*, or Pellitory of the Wall, upon your Grain, and it will destroy them.

IN the Dairy still continue to make Cheese and Butter for Winter-Use, while you can have the pure Grass-Milk.

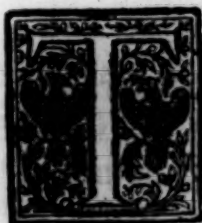
IN this Month your Geese will begin to moult, and it is then the time of pulling off their Feathers; which is practised in *Lincolnshire*, and other fenny Countries, to great advantage.

THIS is the proper Month for making Gooseberry and Currant Wines; which, with a little keeping, will become very strong and mellow.

AUGUST.



AUGUST.



THE Weather in the first part of this Month, is generally very hot and dry ; but towards the end, the Evenings and Mornings grow cool, and our first Rains generally begin.

THIS Month is a very busy time with the Farmers, the Corn-Harvest being in its greatest Height now almost every where.

BARLEY is known to be ripe ; first, by the Straw's becoming yellow, so that no part of it be of a greenish Colour ; and, secondly, by the hardness of the Grain ; and, thirdly, by the hanging down of the Ear : 'tis then time to mow it, if the Weather be fair. The Grain of Barley is not very apt to shed, and therefore may lie three or four Days in the Swarth after 'tis cut, turning it now and then, that the Weeds in it may dry the better ; for if the Weeds in it are not thoroughly

roughly dry, then in putting it up, the Barley will mow-burn; but when we perceive it to be pretty dry in the Swarth, we must first cock it in the Field for two or three Days before we carry it home, which should always be in dry Weather, for it will bear Wet in the Field the worst of any Corn, because it is very apt to sprout.

WHEAT is ripe when the Straw is yellow, the Grain hard, and the Ears hang down, then it must be cut and bound into Sheaves; if it be very weedy, then the Sheaves may be the smaller; and if wet Weather should be likely to attend the reaping of your Wheat, set three or four Sheaves against three or four others, and thatch them with two open Sheaves laid over the top till the whole is thoroughly dry. When you make your Mow or Stack of Corn, guard against the Rats and other Vermin, by raising the Foundation of your Stacks or Mows above ground, and securing the Pedestals by Pans of Water, or else have every Stack encompass'd with Water; but there is nothing like a Barn and a few good Cats, to preserve your Corn from being injur'd by the Weather, or destroy'd by Vermin. Wheat, if it be thatch'd in the manner I speak of, will take no harm if it was to remain in the
the

the Field five or six Weeks after it was cut ; so that there is time enough to expect good Weather for drying it.

THE four and six-row'd Barley will be ripe at this Season ; the Hardness of the Grain, and the Yellowness of the Straw, are Demonstrations of their Ripeness.

IN some forward Places, Rye will be ripe this Month, which you may know by the Yellowness of the Straw, and the other Marks above-mention'd, which demonstrate the Ripeness of other Grain. The Corn does not easily shed, and for that reason you may let it lie upon the Ground a few days after it is cut before you bind it, if it happens to be full of Weeds, that the Weeds may be thoroughly dry : but 'tis a Grain that easily sprouts in the Ear, if the Weather happens to be wet ; so that in rainy Weather, it should be often turn'd while it lies upon the Ground.

IF Oats are now ripe, we must mow them immediately, for they are apt to shed their Grain very soon. Besides, the common Tokens of Ripeness in other Corns, which I have already taken notice of, the Husk or Chaff of the Oat will open, and discover the Seed. It is a com-

mon Practice to let them lie a few days in the Field to plump, which the Dews will do, or a little Rain : but chiefly it is to be wish'd, that we can suffer them to lie in the Field till the Weeds are quite dry ; for else the Weeds in them being put up moist in Stacks or in the Barn, will give the Oats the Must, or mow-burn them.

IN the feeding or fattening of Cattle, it is to be observ'd, that if you give them fresh and deep Pasture regularly, they will soon be fat, and fit for Sale: let them not stay too long in one Ground, for if they want, they will lose more Flesh in one day, than they can recover in three ; nor is there any certain Rule how long time Cattle require in feeding Grounds to be fat ; some will take three Months, others two, and some will be fat in six Weeks. The Season is the chief with regard to feeding ; if that be favourable, Cattle may be fed much sooner than if it was dry, and the Grass huskey and dry. And again, the sort of Grass is to be consider'd ; the Clovers, or most of the *French* Grasses, will fatten Cattle very quickly, and next to them the Marsh Land ; and they will be longest fattening in the common Grass, and should, as I observ'd above, be often shifted. A prudent Farmer will soon see the Alteration in his Cattle, and by their

appearance will best know when to sell them off; which he may ever do at pleasure, because there is always a Demand for them in the *British* Nation, where, I suppose, there is more Flesh eaten than in all *Europe* besides; so that when he observes that his Cattle are fit for the Markets, he is sure of Money for them.

NOW you may again cut your Woad, if the Leaf is full grown, and take care to weed it at the same time, if you see that Work is necessary.

SOMETIMES your Carroway and Coriander Seed is not ripe till this Month, then cut it as directed in the preceding.

GATHER such Flax as is now ripe, and tie it in little Bundles to dry.

IF your Rape or Cole-Seed was not ripe in the foregoing Month, now take care of it, for it is apt to shed if it be too ripe. See the Directions in the preceding Month, for the ordering of it.

NOW second hough your Turnips that were sown in *June*, and give the first houghing to the Turnips sown in the last Month, for without these Houghings, you must expect but an indifferent Crop; for

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if they grow too close together, they will run into leaf, and the Roots then will come to nothing. And if two Plants should grow close to one another, they will both be spoil'd; therefore keep all your Plants single, and the Leaves will be short, and the Roots large.

IF you have very light sandy Lands, you may sow Turnips upon them in this Month to grow without houghing; for these will make an extraordinary Manure for your Land, to be pull'd up when they are full grown; and when they begin to rot, should be plough'd in. This will greatly strengthen your sandy Land.

ABOUT the end, such of your Buck-Wheat as was sown early will be ripe; it should then be mown, and lie in the Field till the Stalks are well dry'd. It will bear Wet better than other sort of Grain, and there is no danger of the Seed's Shedding,

IT makes very good Fodder for Cattle, and the Grain is excellent for feeding of Poultry, and fattening of Hogs.

AT this time your Spurry-Seed will be ripe, and should then be cut; it will soon dry, the Seed is very good Food for Fowls; we may also sow it this Month. Now also

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Canary-Seed will be fit to cut ; it must be carry'd in very dry.

ABOUT the end your Hops will be fit to gather, but you must chuse dry Weather for that Work, and observe, that the Hops be full ripe, which you may know by their turning somewhat brown, and by their being easily pull'd in pieces ; but the pleasant Smell they then yield, is as sure a Token as the rest, of the Ripeness of the Hop, and the Seeds will then be of a brown Colour.

IN the gathering of Hops, we must employ two Setts of People ; one sort must cut the Vines about two or three Foot above the Root, and pull up the Poles with the Hops on them, to be carry'd to the Pickers ; and the others are those who are appointed to pick the Hops. These last must be very careful to pick the Hops clean, without any Stalks or Leaves among them. The common way is, to provide a Frame of strong Wood of nine Foot long, and about four Foot wide, and about three Foot high from the Ground, upon which should be fastned with Hooks a piece of coarse Cloth to hang hollow in the Frame. About one of these Frames may stand six Pickers, and there may be several of these in a large Hop-Ground,

because of getting the Work over quickly, for wet Weather at this time will damage the Hop; so in case of a Shower, while the Hops are picking, the Cloth which the Hops are pick'd into, must be immediately unhook'd, and laid over them, that no Wet get at them: and then the Hops should be spread on some clean place, which is cool and dry, to prevent their heating, which would spoil their Colour: in this state they may lie till they are carry'd to be dry'd upon the Kiln. Never begin to gather your Hops till the Dew is off them, nor after Rain, till they are quite dry.;

IN the drying them, you must observe, that your Kiln be free from Smoke; and if it be good, one may dry a Kiln of Hops in about twelve Hours, but it must be Judgment that will best discover when they are enough, for sometimes the Slowness or Quickness of the Fire will alter the time of drying; and some Kilns, if the Fire could be constant, will be longer drying of Hops than others. The way is to spread the Hops about eight Inches thick upon an Hair-Cloth, and lay them smooth and as equal as may be with a Rake, taking care that they do not scatter at the Edges: the Heat under them must be moderate, and as regular as may be, lest you over-dry them; and you may best judge when the
under-

under-side is enough, and that the Hops should be turn'd, by striking them with a Stick, for then they will be crisp at the top in every place, and will jump up. It will then be best to lower your Fire, for if you turn them while they sweat, they will be apt to scorch. The way of turning them, is to fling them up in an heap in the middle of the Kiln with a fine Shovel, and then spread them again upon the Hair-Cloth as level as possible, renewing your Fire immediately after they are spread, and continue it as regular as may be till they are dry'd enough; which you may know by stirring them with a Stick, and they will rattle and fly if they are thoroughly dry'd; which, if that happens, withdraw your Fire immediately, and remove your Hops to a close Room, to lie there in an heap till they are fit to bag.

ABOUT the end of this Month, your Partridges and Pheasants will be strong enough to pinion, if you do not design to let them fly, tho' some content themselves with pulling the flight Feathers out of one Wing; but they are soon renew'd, and we may happen to neglect the pulling their Wings, when there is fresh occasion, and lose them. But the pinioning them is a sure way to keep them from ever flying. The Method of doing which I learnt

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learnt from Mr. *Brewer* of *Tunbridge*, the curious Gentleman whom I have mention'd before concerning the breeding of Pheasants; he prescribes, that we pick the Feathers clean all round the first Joint of one Wing, and then take a strong Thread and knit hard enough round the place a little below the Joint, to stop the Bleeding when we cut off the Pinion, which must be done with a very sharp Knife. When this Operation is over, turn them loose; but watch them for an Hour, to observe whether they do not bleed; which, if they should happen to do, scar the Wound with a red-hot Tobacco-Pipe.

CONTINUE to feed your Fish that you would keep tame, and still serve your Rabbit-Warren with Greens, as in the former Month.

GEESE may be now turn'd into your Stubbles, they will soon be fit for the Markets.

THE Barn-door this Month will greatly help your Poultry, and make them soon fit for the Markets: A little Cramming afterwards will make them very fat, always remembering to put Brick-dust in their Water when you put them up to fatten, as directed in the Month of *January*.

NOW

NOW geld such Lambs as you design to feed.

IN this Month you may mow all your *French* Grasses, such as Saintfoine, Clovers, Lucern, &c.

YOU may now, if your Teams are not too much employ'd, plough up your Fallows the third time, especially if the Land is stubborn; for the chief end of fallowing Ground, is, to break its stubbornness, and render it fine, and to kill the Weeds, which Summer-fallowing is good for; tho' the common Notion is, that the Ground rests while it lies fallow, and is therefore made more fit for the Production of Corn, by lying a Season or two without a Crop. But here I beg leave to ask the Farmer a Question: When we fallow Ground, will it not bear Weeds, and do not those Weeds draw Nourishment from this Ground, and then what Benefit does he imagine to himself from such fallowing? But then he will tell me, that he destroys the Weeds in such Land as he twy and trifallows; or, in other terms, plows up three times without sowing upon it. The destroying of the Weeds may, I allow, be a means of making the Crop, which we design to sow upon such Land,

Land, grow more luxuriant, because where a Crop is crowded with Weeds, the Crop is stifled for want of Air; or, as the old Expression is, the Crop is choak'd by the Weeds: but as for the Weeds robbing the Crop of the Nourishment which the Earth would give it, 'tis as contrary to Reason, as to suppose that a Dog and an Horse to be fed in the same Room together, would rob one another of their Victuals, when the Meat of one is Bones or Flesh, and the other Hay and Oats. Just so it is with Vegetables, one sort draws one Food from the Earth, and another, another sort; and 'tis generally the want of this Thought that makes our Farmers wear out their Ground, as they call it: they sow all the sorts of Corn in a succession, every one of which draws nearly the same Nourishment, or requires the same Diet as an Horse, a Cow, and such Creatures, who all feed upon Grass or Hay. Surely then to have these Creatures continually in a Field, their Food would be wanting in time, and the Field must rest for a few Weeks before it could produce any more Food for them; but 'tis Grass only that they eat perhaps, and the Thistles still remain, besides some other Herbs which a Mule or an Ass will eat; and when they have done, the Swine, the Geese, and other

other Creatures will still find something that is convenient for their Nourishment. So I repeat, that the best way of resting of Ground, is, to sow it time after time with such things as draw different Nourishments ; for while one sort is growing, it only draws its own Nourishment, without disturbing the other Virtues of the Earth ; and then another Plant of a different Nature coming afterwards, draws another Nourishment, and so on ; and in the mean time the Earth has frequent stirring by the Plough and Harrow, which gives it opportunity of imbibing from the Air and Showers, such Virtues as are of the same sort as it had lost before ; and especially in stiff Land, frequent ploughing is of service in breaking its parts ; and, as one may say, unlocking those parts where a great share of Nourishment of several kinds had been long confined. So that upon the whole, the chief Benefit by Fallowing is often exposing the Earth to the Air, and rendring its Parts fine, and not drawing too much of any particular Nourishment out of it, by overstocking of it with the same sort of Vegetable.

IF the Farmer depends much upon his Dairy, he should observe which Cows are growing low in Milk, and sell them off for fresh Cattle.

SUCH

SUCH as have tame Partridges, may now teach young Pointers or Setting-Dogs; they will be more stanch to their Game than any that are broke in the Field at Pairing-time, because those that are broke in the Field, cross their Game, and will be apt to mistake them, frequently setting or pointing at a Lark, or some other small Bird.

IF there is any spare time with the Teams, still bring home Manures of all sorts, such as are binding for the sandy and light Lands, and such as are light and open in their parts for stiff and heavy Ground.

IF you have now any Pease that are ripe, reap them; and after they are well dry'd, carry them home in a dry Day. You may also now draw your broad Bean-Stalks, if the Beans are ripe, and make them up into Bundles to dry. They should stand in the Field, if the Weather will permit, for several days, till all the Moisture is out of them, and be thresh'd soon after they are carry'd home; for I have known some Stacks of these Beans, as well as of the *Spanish* Bean, that have rotted and musted in the Cods, by being put up before they were quite dry. When they are thresh'd, and put in the Granary, let them

them be frequently turn'd the first six Weeks after they are laid up ; and so ought all new-thresh'd Seeds and Grain to be serv'd, and sifted twice the first Week, or five times the first Fortnight, which will occasion them to dry well, and make them keep without hazard.

AT spare times, if the Teams are not too much engaged in the Field, fetch home Turfs, Peat, Coal, Wood and Furze, or Whins or Gorze, for Firing in the Winter, and what Timber you judge may be fit for your Use in the Winter : for now the Ways are good, and there is not the Wear and Tear for the Horses or Oxen, that there would be when the Rains have fallen. However, where Turnpikes are appointed, the Ways are so much mended, that I am persuaded the Cattle do their work with half the trouble, and thrive better upon their Feed, than they did before the repairing of the Roads : and besides, where the Roads are good, fewer Cattle will do, to carry the Farmers Goods to Market, than were used before, when the Roads were deep and uneven. So that one may make three Teams out of two, and gain one third advantage in the Labour of the Cattle.

WE

WE may yet plant Saffron-Roots, for the Leaves of it do not yet appear; but it is full late for that Work: for to give the Roots strength, we should let them be in the ground at least two Months before it is their growing time, that the Earth may settle close about them. See the Directions for planting of Saffron in the Months *June* and *July*.

IF the Weather be fair, cut your Teasels, and tye them in Bundles, setting them in the Sun to dry: but if the Weather prove wet, set them to dry in some place of Shelter. These are of great use in such places where the woollen Manufacture is encouraged, but otherwise are not worth cultivating.

THE Weld or Dyers Weed, which was sown with Corn this Year, must, as soon as the Corn is cut, be well weeded, that it may bring a good Crop the Summer following.

IT is now the time to draw or pull up your Onions, letting them lie upon the ground several days exposed to the Sun, till the green Stalks are decay'd and dry; and then, if you have a Kiln to dry them upon, they will keep the better. The

Spa-

Spanish Onions are the best for present Use, and the *Strasburgh* Onions for keeping. Be sure let your Onions be carry'd into the House when they are quite dry.

AT this time weed your Madder and Liquorice Grounds.

WEED your Saffron Grounds this Month, for the Saffron will receive injury if we were to disturb it in *September*, for then it will be in its full bloom.

NOW, if your Hives are full, take the Honey; which some do by stifling the Bees: but I think the best way is to keep our Bees in Box-Hives, so that one may set several upon one another, as one sees occasion. For if we have our Boxes made with a Pannel of Glass at the back part, we may see when the Bees want room, and so place a fresh Box underneath the full Box: for the top of each Box has a square hole about eight or nine Inches over, and a piece of Tin Plate made to slide in Grooves, to shut it close at pleasure; but the Tin Plate must be drawn back when we set the fresh Box under the full Box, and the Hole on the top of the fresh Box being open, the Bees will soon work down into it, and fill it, if they are in a Country where there are Flowers

enough. It is reported by People of good Credit, that in some parts of *Germany* the People carry their Hives of Bees several Miles to feed. But the way of taking the Honey in these Boxes, is, when we find the upper Box and lower Box full, to spread a Sheet before the Front of the Hive, fastening it with a Hook or two close to the Hive's or Box's mouth, so that the Bees may walk easily out of the Hive upon the Sheet; and then fasten the Corners of the Sheet, which are most remote from the Hive, to some wooden Pins which are stuck into the ground, so that the Sheet will then be spread open to its full extent, and be out of danger of being ruffled, if there should happen any Air. But this Work should be done in a still hot Day, about three or four a-clock in the Afternoon; for then the Bees are at work in the lower Box. You must then with a Mallet strike the Tin Plate at the back of the Box a sharp stroke, so as to drive it quite home, that it may cut off the Communication between the upper and lower Box; and then turn the upper Box bottom upwards, and clap a Cloth over it, and remove it as quick as possible to the House, lest the Bees follow you; and then be sure to set it in such a place where the Bees cannot get in: for if it is an open place, where the Bees can come at it, they will soon carry it away.

way. The Man who performs this Operation, will save himself best from the Bees, if he has no Hair on his Head, and that his Head be rubb'd with Vinegar : but if he should happen to be stung, he may apply a Copper Half-penny to the wounded part, and holding it there for a Minute or two, it will prevent the Swelling, or any After-pain. But it very rarely happens, that the Person is stung in this way of taking of Bees, because he does his work in the back of the Bee-house, where the Bees do not see him. In the mean time, the Bees come all out of the Box-hive, which is left, and spread themselves upon the Sheet, and divide into Troops in a most surprizing Order, seemingly observing the Motions of the Queen-Bee, who has a long Alley left for her to walk in, from the mouth of the Hive to the bottom of the Sheet ; and as she bends her course towards the mouth of the Hive, so the several Troops march towards the same place, but immediately stop when she stops ; and if she return, so they all return to their first Stations. I have observ'd the Queen-Bee on this occasion make several Motions towards the Hive's mouth before she went in, and as often did her Attendants make the same Motions, till at length, when she went into the Hive, all the rest follow'd. But it is impossible to

express all the surprizing Phenomena which may be observ'd in a Colony of Bees ; who, besides the great Advantage they bring us, afford us more Entertainment and noble Cause of Speculation, than any Creature upon Earth.

BY the Opportunity we have of looking into these Box-hives through the Glasses, we may always be able to judge whether the Swarm is strong or weak, and what quantity of Honey we may venture to take, for we must always leave enough for the Bees ; and we may also put a fresh Box under the Box that we leave, about three Days after we have taken the Honey. And if our Bees lie near a Heath, or any place where are Furzes, or Gorze, or Whins, they will soon fill the lower Box, and provide store of Food to maintain them in the Winter ; so that then they need not be fed, as weak Stocks must be, when the Weather comes to be cold.

YOU should now watch your Bees, to prevent their Battles, which frequently happen in this Month, and can only be prevented by firing a Gun or two when they are fighting in the Air, which will make them settle and separate, each Army taking a different Post ; and then must be watch'd, lest they engage again, and then
must

must be parted as before, or else 'tis ten to one but one of the Colonies is destroy'd; for their Battles are so bloody, that I have seen near half a Peck of Bees lie dead in a Battle of a quarter of an hour; but have since prevented the deadly Issue of such Wars, by the Method here proposed. It is to be observ'd, that these Battles never happen between Bees of the same Colony, but between Hives of different Colonies: so that when one has a mind to furnish an Apiary with Bees, it will be best to chuse all our Stocks of the same Breed, and not have any strange Swarm among them.

NOW gather such Fruit in your Orchards as are ripe, and carry them to Market, for such as are now ripe will not keep.

IF you have any great store of Codlins, and they prove low prized at the Markets, make them into Cyder, which will soon be fit for drinking, and be much stronger than the Cyders made of any other Apples, as I am inform'd.

EXAMINE your Cheese-Loft, and turn your Cheeses, rubbing them well with a dry Cloth; and if you find them infested with Mites, cut them out, and fill up the Holes with fine Powder of Chalk, taking care that you leave none of the

Mites upon the Shelves. This should be done once or twice in every hot Month.

THIS is a good Season for making Elder Wine; and as I think that all our *English* Wines should be encouraged, because they are wholesome, and will come at a little Expence; I shall shortly publish the Receipts to make them, as well as such other Receipts as may prove beneficial in a Farm-House, and what is necessary to be done every Month by the Mistress of a Farm; which I have been a long while sollicitd to do, and have already receiv'd many curious Receipts from several Country Ladies, towards compiling such a Work, and still shall be obliged to such as will favour me with any thing curious on those Subjects: for a Farmer of three or four hundred Pounds a Year may have every thing about him, and live as elegantly as a Gentleman of eight hundred Pounds a Year, if he does but know the use that may be made of every thing under his care. And I am the more encouraged to publish the Piece I mention, because the Great *Xenophon* has given us a Piece concerning Oeconomy, which yet has not been made familiar to the Country Ladies, and which I propose to publish along with it.

YOU may now begin to kill your first Hogs for Pork.

THE Rabbits in your artificial Warren that are full grown, are now whole skin'd, that is, their Fur is full grown; and therefore such Skins are now worth five Shillings a Dozen at the first hand, if they are of the common grey wild Kind; or if they are of the white or black Kind, about six or seven Shillings a Dozen; but of the silver-hair'd Rabbit, about twenty-pence *per* Skin.

SOW Carrots to stand the Winter; they be what are call'd *Michaelmas* Carrots, though sown at this time.

FOLD Sheep upon such Fields as you design to sow with Wheat.





SEPTEMBER.

IN this Month the Sun is commonly very hot, which ripens our Fruits ; but if this Month proves rainy, it is of bad consequence to the Farmer, for there are still many Crops abroad. We must however expect some Showers, but they seldom hold long, and are not general ; or if we have Rains at this time, that hold three or four Days in one part of the Country, it will be dry in another part : so that if some Crops suffer by Wet, there are others which escape. But I think those Farmers to blame, that have not by this time got in most of their Harvest, for an early Harvest depends upon early sowing ; and if our Harvest comes forward, we have a better chance for fair Weather, than if we sow late.

NOW your Walnuts are ripe, and should be thresh'd off the Trees with long Poles. These turn to good account in many places in *Surrey*, as well to be sold for

for eating, as for making of Oil. This Month set some in by-places, with their green Shells about them, which will preserve them, during the Winter, from the Mice and other Vermin. They will be up the Spring following, and should never be transplanted.

NOW you may pull up such of your *Windsor* or broad Beans, as did not ripen in the preceding Month, and bind them in Bundles, letting them stand to dry before they are carry'd home. See the Directions in the preceding Month. Also cut and carry your Pease that are now ripe, as directed in the former Month.

WE must now look after our Hops, that have been dry'd on the Kiln, and if they begin to give, which you may find by putting your Hand into the Heap; and if then they feel moist and clammy when they are press'd, you may conclude the Fire is out of them, and they are fit to be put into the Bag.

BEFORE your Hops are fit to bag, you are to provide the Bags ready for them of coarse Cloth, about three quarters wide, three Breadths wide, and three Yards three quarters long. These Bags, when we are ready to fill them, must have
their

their Mouths strain'd open in a circular manner, which some do with Hoops, and then fasten the Edges on the top of a Sack to the Floor of a Room, where there is an Hole cut, so that the Body of the Sack may hang at its full length, and have a foot vacant room under the bottom, and have the like room on every side. This being well fastned and secured, when your Hops are ready to bag, a Man must go into it, and put a handful of the Hops which he is to bag into each of the Corners at the bottom of the Sack, which some one without side must tie very close with Pack-thread. These are to serve for Samples of the Hops when they are carry'd to Market; then pour in two or three Sieves full of Hops into the Bag, and let the Man tread them very well with Shoes without Heels; then add two or three Sieves more of Hops, and let him tread them well, still repeating the same till the Sack is just full enough to admit of being sew'd close up; but before the Bag is closed, tie a handful of Hops in each of the upper Corners, as you did in the lower parts of the Bag. Such a Bag will hold about two hundred Weight of Hops, and should be kept in a dry place.

WE must yet be busy in the Hop-Garden, for sometimes the Hops are not
ripe

ripe till this Month, or we cannot get Hands to gather our Hop-Gardens clean in the former Month : however, if we have a large Quantity of Hop-Ground, I have known it happen, that some have been gathering, while some have been drying, and others been bagging. I think it well worth the while of a Planter of Hops, if he plants a great Quantity, to build a Shed or two to gather his Hops in, lest Rain should happen, for Rain will spoil them ; and besides, the same Sheds may serve to keep his Poles in after the Hopping-time is over. 'Tis necessary, as soon as the Hops are gather'd, to strip the Poles of the Bind or Vine, and lay the Poles in Parcels to be carry'd into the Sheds as soon as Convenience will permit ; but if there are no Sheds, stack them up, that is, set them up in Piles, so as to support one another, and thatch their tops to keep them from Wet as much as possible ; for the more they are kept from Wet, the longer they will last. *N. B.* The Poles which are rotten at the Bottoms, may have their Bottoms now saw'd off, and new sharpen'd, for Hops of two Years standing ; and as those decay, let them again be saw'd and sharpen'd for Hop-Plantations of the first Year ; and after that, if they last so long, cut them for the Fire.

THIS

THIS Month is the Saffron-Harvest, and care must be taken to provide Hands, according as you have Quantity; for it must be gather'd soon in the Morning, or else the Saffron will shrink into the Ground. In the Saffron-Countries, Women and Children are generally employ'd to gather the Saffron, pulling up all the Flowers they see blown, and carrying the Flowers home in Baskets. They then pick the Saffron out of the Flowers in the Sun-shine, if there is any, to dry it a little, and then it is prepared for the Kiln. It is to be observ'd, that very wet Weather in the Bloom of Saffron, beats down the Flowers, and bruises and spoils the Saffron, which is the Style of the Flower, or that part in the middle, which is of an Orange-Colour: and when this happens, then the Saffron will be small and weak. When our Saffron is gather'd, we are to take abundance of care in drying it; for if we over-dry it, it will be kiln-burnt; and if we under-dry it, it will be apt to rot, and grow mouldy, and will not keep. However, when the Saffron Season is wet, we may dry it more than in a dry Season: But let the Season be what it will, the Papers it is dry'd in are generally good, and are used instead of Saffron by many Apothecaries; those Papers having imbibed many

ny of the fine parts of the Saffron in the drying, afford a fine Tincture.

THE Kiln upon which it is dry'd, is compos'd with very little Art, and is almost in all the poor Peoples Houses in the Saffron Countries ; but as I hope to encrease this valuable Commodity, and to be the means of cultivating it in other places than where it now is, I shall endeavour to describe it.

THE Kiln is much narrower at the bottom than at the top ; that is, about a foot square at the bottom, and two foot at the top, and about two foot high. This is made of Oak, framed together, and cover'd with Laths on the out-side, as well as lined with them. Upon these Laths within-side, is spread a strong Mortar two Inches thick, and the out-side is cover'd with Lime and Hair ; but the bottom on the inside must be cover'd four or five Inches thick with the strong Mortar, to serve as an Hearth to lay the Fire on, leaving a hole on one side to put in the Charcoal Fire, and give it Air. Upon the top of this Kiln must be strain'd a Hair-Cloth as tight as possible, and nail'd very fast ; because when we put on our Saffron between the Papers to dry, we must press it with a Weight of twenty-five or thirty Pounds in
the

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the drying of it. Keep the Fire as constant and gentle as possible, and as soon as it begins to smell pretty strong, turn the Papers, and set on the Weight again, till the other side of the Cake is well dry'd. The Paper you dry it in must be white Paper; and in many places they will lay the Paper under and over six or seven Sheets thick, especially on the top, on purpose to get the Tincture of the Saffron; but this must be guarded against: and likewise they will put the outside Papers to fresh Saffron, on purpose to make them fully partake of its Tincture; but this weakens the Strength of the Saffron, as I have observ'd before, and the Papers sell well, which are the Dryers Perquisites. My Ingenious Friend, *Samuel Trowell* Esq; of the *Temple*, has a piece of Saffron planted in his Garden at *Poplar*, which he has dry'd in a particular way, *i. e.* by putting it into a Bladder, and keeping it for some time in a warm Pocket, which I have seen this Year, and is extraordinary good. There are others who dry it between thick Glasses, letting them lie in the Sun for some time, and that I have known to be very good: but these ways will not dry large quantities. One might enumerate many ways of drying Saffron, but there is only this Rule we ought to have before us; and that is, to dry it in such a manner,

ner, that only the watry parts may be exhaled, and none of the fine parts : for which reason, if the Glafs will bear the Fire of the Kilns I have mention'd, I judge that it will be much the best way.

IN this Month some People chuse to store their Ponds with Fish ; and provided they take only the young Fry of the same Year, it may do well enough, for they will thrive much better than larger Fish. See the Spring-Months for Directions. When you remove them from one place to another, let it be in the Mornings and Evenings.

NOW carry Manure upon your Grounds which you design for Wheat, and lay it in heaps at proper Distances, to be spread just before the time of Ploughing ; remembring that the stiffer Manures are for the light Grounds, and the lighter Manures for the stiff Grounds.

IT is now customary among the Cowmen about *London* to clean their Cow-yards, and spread the Cow-dung upon their Cow-pasture for Winter-Service ; and I find that it is of extraordinary use. It is no matter whether the Cow-dung be fresh or not, it soon dries by the Sun at
this

this time of the Year, and makes the Grasse grow in an extraordinary manner.

IF you have not pinion'd your Pheasants or Partridges in the foregoing Month, you may yet do that Work. The late *Eyes*, or Broods of Pheasants, may more properly be now pinion'd than in the preceding Month; for that Operation must not be done till they are strong. See how to do this Work in the former Month.

IN this Month, about *London* they begin to take up the Potatoes, which must be done with a three-phang'd Fork, which will raise them up whole; but a Spade will cut through several of the Roots.

ABOUT this time make an end of selling such Cattle, as you bought in the Spring; for they are now as well fed as you can expect them: and buy in fresh Cattle, to fatten against *Christmas* or the Spring.

IN some places it is not yet too late to take Honey: See the Directions in the former Month. And be careful likewise to separate your Honey from the Combs, and make your Wax into Cakes; which should be done soon after you have taken it from the Hive. This is the best time of
year

year to make Metheglin or strong Mead, for it may be now done at little Charge; for tho' we press the Combs never so well, there will be still so much Honey left, as might, by washing of the Combs, yield a good Quantity of sweet Liquor, fit to be used in making Metheglin.

NOW turn your Swine into the Woods, for the Mast begins to ripen, and drop, the Acorns especially. Also employ Women and Children to gather Mast for feeding of Hogs at home, for it is a Food which will make the Fat of those Creatures firm, and is the chief cause of the superiour Goodness of the *Hampshire* Bacon, and makes it preferable to that of other Countries: and so other Counties might produce as good Bacon, if the Swine were fed in the same manner, and had as many Woods as we find in *Hampshire*. But 'tis very certain there are now besides this Food, abundance of Ground-Nuts and Truffles in the *Hampshire* Woods, which perhaps may contribute to the feeding of Swine, who will soon find them, and eat them very greedily.

NOW is a busy Time among the Cyder-Makers: 'tis a very wholesome Drink, and very serviceable where a Farmer employs many Hands. In my Monthly
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Works, I have describ'd a Mill for the grinding of Apples, which will save several Bushels of Apples in every Hoghead. Let your Winter-Fruits remain upon the Treestill the next Month ; but such as are now fit to gather, be sure do that Work in a dry Day.

ABOUT the end of the Month, sow Wheat in moist Lands, first taking care to make convenient Drains to carry off the Wet, if it should happen in too great abundance. And to prevent the Wheat's becoming smutty, use the following Brine to steep your Seed-Wheat in, which was publickly recommended by the late Colonel *Plummer* of *Hertfordshire*, and is of great use. Having chosen the Wheat you would sow, wash it well in a Tub, through three or four several Waters, stirring it with a large Stick with great force, skimming off all the light Wheat which swims on the top of the Water ; and when you have thus clean'd your Wheat, put it in the following Liquor.

PUT a sufficient Quantity of Water in a large Tub that hath a Tap : to this put as much Salt, as when it is stirred about will make an Egg swim : then add as much more Salt as before, and stir it very well ; after which, put two or three
Pounds

Pounds of Alum beaten very fine, and stir it about.

THIS must be used like the ordinary Brines, only the Wheat must steep thirty or forty Hours, for less signifies nothing; tho' the common Opinion is, that steeping so long, kills the Seed in the Wheat, but Experience teaches the contrary.

YOU must take your Wheat out the Night before you sow it, and sift some slack'd Lime on it, which serves only to make it dry enough to sow. It is necessary to add some more Water to this Brine as it wastes, with Salt proportionable to the Water, and about a Pound of Alum.

ABOUT the middle of this Month, sow Rye on dry Ground, for it will not bear such wet Land as Wheat will.

YOU may now draw or pull up your Horse-Beans, if they are ripe, and tie the Stalks in Bundles to dry, before they are carry'd home to be thresh'd.

IF your Kidney-Beans are ripe, they may be gather'd, and being well dry'd, may lie in the Cods to be thresh'd in the Spring for Seed, or at this time for boil-

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ing; they are frequently eaten abroad in this state, and are very good Meat.

THIS is the most proper time of the Year to enter upon a new Farm; for now a Farmer has both the sowing Seasons before him, to do what he thinks best with his Ground.

NOW the first-sown Turnips are fit to draw for the Markets, or for the Cattle.

REPAIR the Fences about your Corn-Grounds; and you may yet bring such Fuel or Timber as you shall want in the Winter, before the Ways grow bad.

YOU may now cut Woad for the last time this Year.

YOU must now cut your Oats that were late sown, for we must soon expect bad Weather; and also neglect not to get in your latest sown Buck-Wheat, and finish your Harvest, if possible. But tho' one may give a good general guess at the Weather, yet I would advise every Farmer to supply himself with such Instruments as may particularly inform him what Weather will happen; as the Barometer, Hygrometer, &c. which will foretell Rain, Frost, Thaws, Heat, dry Weather, &c.

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especially those made by Mr. *John Fowler*, Mathematical Instrument-Maker in *Swi-then's-Alley* near the *Royal-Exchange*, *London*, who prepares them with the greatest Exactitude and Truth ; so that one may judge by them of the Weather some Days before it will happen, and so hasten or delay the cutting or sowing of Crops.

NOW gather your latest Hemp, if the Seed be ripe, and thresh the Seed out immediately.

IN some cold Places, I have known the Rape and Cole-Seed not ripe till this time. It must be gather'd as before directed, and turns to good account for making of Oil ; and the Cakes afterwards are helpful to the Land, being broken to pieces and sow'd upon it.

STILL fold Sheep upon your Fallows, if you have any, and such Grounds as you design to sow Wheat upon.

NOW provide a good Quantity of Malt against the next Month, which is a capital brewing Month.



O C T O B E R.

THIS Month is generally dry, and the Days, tho' they are short, are for the most part moderately warm, but the Evenings frosty; and I count this the best travelling Month in the whole Year: for besides what I have observ'd already of this Month, I may add, that the Roads are commonly very good, they not yet having been spoiled by too much Wet, and therefore not much worn,

IN this Month some chuse to plant their Hops rather than at the beginning of the Year, the difference only will be between one and the other, that those planted in the Spring, if the Spring should prove very dry, may grow weak, because they may want Showers to settle the Earth close about their Roots: And to plant in this Month, we may be sure, that our new Plantation will have time enough, before they begin to shoot, to
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fix their Roots; but then, if the Land that we now plant them in, should be much troubled with Waters, many of them may rot perhaps, or run wild or barren the following Year. The Spring-planting however, if we water to the purpose, is a sure way; but the Watering ought to be at least six or eight Gallons to every Hill, so as to make the Earth about the Plants a kind of Mud. But if you plant this Month, and are out of the reach of Floods, as you ought always to be in your Hop-Garden, because the Hop loves a dry Soil, then take the following Method: Chuse a piece of Ground, which is fresh and of a light nature, and somewhat deep in Staple or Surface; and if it so happens, that there is a Loam under the Surface, it is still the better. This Ground should be well shelter'd on the North and West Sides against Storms; for whatever Winds may blow from the East or South, cannot hurt them; for the blighting Easterly Winds come in the Spring before the Hop is capable of being hurt, and the South Winds have yet never been hurtful to Plants, that I have heard of; but the North is a rude Wind, and the West generally tempestuous, and most commonly blows in Storms, when the Hop may suffer the most. And that the two Sides I mention of an Hop-ground,

should be open, is necessary, besides the Reasons I have given, because the opening to the Morning Sun corrects and takes off the Dews betimes, which prevents the Mill-dew, or Honey-dew: and in the next place, the South Sun contributes to the digesting the Juices in the Plants, which is the Occasion of Fruit in such Vegetables, as bring their Fruit upon the Shoots or Branches of the same Year; and besides the advantage of this Share of Sun, will sooner ripen the Fruit. When I give this Direction, I do not speak of small Hop-grounds of a Rood, or such a Measure, but of an Acre, or of several Acres; for to a small Hop-ground the least shade of Trees will keep the Air too close, and occasion the Hops next them to mildew, and especially if they have any drip into the Hop-garden; but in natural Situations by the sides of Hills, small Hop-grounds may do well. When the Ground is appointed, plow it, and mark it out for the Hop-hills, whose Centres must be seven Foot asunder, and when they are made with a Spade so as to stand in rows in the Quincunx Order, and only composed of a fresh light Soil, plant your Hop-plants each about a Foot in length, and three Buds upon each Sett: Plant six on one Hill with a Dibble or Setting-Stick, contriving to have one Plant upon the middle
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of each Hill, and the tops of the Plants level with the Surface of the Earth upon the Hills; and then cover every Hill two or three Inches with richer Mould, if you can get it, or else some of the same finely sifted. But first see that the new Plants are well settled, either by pressing the Earth close about them, or watering them as above directed; however, they must now have some Water at planting. If we plant them in this Month, we may the Spring following plant Beans in the Alleys between the Hills; or if it is more convenient to plant in *March*, you may do the same in your new Hop-garden; for the new-planted Hops will not yield any great Shade the first Year. In this Month dress your old Hop-grounds, that is, such as you have lately gather'd; you must now cut the Bind within an Inch or two of the top of the Hill, and then fling upon each Hill some fine Earth about three Inches thick; but let it be thoroughly dry, and very light and rich.

IF the Roads are still good, make an end of bringing home such things as may be wanting in your Farm in the Winter, and when your Teams go to the Markets, bring home such Manures as you can get. Also lay Straw in such Ways as are frequented,

quented, that it may rot and serve to help the stiff Lands.

THIS is a capital Month for brewing, the Air being now temperate for the working or fermenting of Drink, therefore that Work should not be neglected.

YOU may yet sow Wheat, according to the Directions given in the preceding Month, and your Spurry will be good Fodder.

NOW take up your full-grown Carrots sown in the Spring, and after having cut their tops close to the Root, let them dry three or four days, and lay them up in dry Sand, or dry Leaves of Trees, till you carry them to the Markets.

YOUR Potatoes are now very good, and fit for the Markets ; see how to take them up in the foregoing Month.

HAVE regard to the Fences of your Wheat-Fields, for while the Wheat is tender, Cattle should not come upon it.

CONTINUE still to make Cyder, and gather your Winter-Fruits for keeping in dry Weather, taking care that your Fruiteries have Air, and that no bruised Fruits

Fruits are laid up with the rest ; for those which are bruised, will presently rot and infect the rest.

ABOUT the beginning of the Month is yet a time for gathering of Saffron, but remember that it must be gather'd in the Morning before the Sun is hot upon it ; for else the Pistillum, which is that part which only makes the Saffron, will shrink above a third part,

THE Rabbits in your artificial Warren must now begin to be restrain'd from their green Meat,

CONTINUE to feed your Fish, as directed in the former Months ; for besides the pleasure of having them tame, and being at your command when they are wanted for the Table, they will thrive extremely by such Feed.

TOWARDS the end of the Month, if there have been Rains, take up your Liquorice which has stood three Years, which will, if it has been taken good care of, produce you a very valuable Crop ; and, at the same time, examine your young Crops of Liquorice, and clear them from Weeds : also take a view of your Madder,
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and other standing Crops, and take care that no Weeds annoy them.

CUT up the Kidney-Beans which are now ripe, and after drying them well, thresh them immediately; but if the Weather is wet, and likely to hold so, pick off the Cods, and dry them in the Shed, or in the House, and then thresh them, and dry the Beans. These sell well at *Bear-Key*; the great Market at *London* for great Seeds.

YOU may now plant Trees in your Hedge-rows, if the Ground is light and dry, or else the Spring is the best.

SEPARATE those Lambs which you design to keep from their Dams.

YOU may now buy in Stocks of Bees, but do not buy from too many places, lest your Apiary be disturb'd by Wars.

COLLECT still Acorns and Mast for home Food for your Hogs, and keep them still in the Woods.

TURN and air your Corn and Pulse in the Grainary.

NOW

NOW begin to kill Swine for Bacon and pickled Pork.

AND 'tis now a good Season to dry Beef, such as is call'd Hung-Beef, for now Fires are pretty constantly kept: And the Season is temperate enough for Flesh to take Salt.





NOVEMBER.

Have observ'd, that this Month has been generally the wettest Month in the whole Year; the Days are very short, and we have very little Sun; the Earth too seems to be now at rest, in comparison of what it is in the other Months, and therefore I can by no means advise the sowing of any Corn at this Season; for if it does come up, it will be subject to many Hazards, as Wet, and Blights, and Frost, before it can gain any Strength. But as for Beans and Pease, such as are of the *Spanish*, *Portugal*, or Hotspur Kinds, we may set and sow some the first Week, in order to come early in the Spring: for when these come up, they will remain pretty short till the open Weather begins to come in, and be in less danger of being pinch'd by the Winds, than those that were sown in *October*; however, it is commonly practised to earth up with an Hough such of our Beans or Pease as are grown in this Month

above four Inches, for it helps to preserve their Shanks or Stalks from turning black.

WE still continue to take up Potatoes with a Prong, or three-fang'd Fork, to avoid wounding the Roots.

THIS Month is also a very good time to take up our full-grown Liquorice, I mean such as has stood three Years: 'tis a rich Crop, if it has been well taken care of.

THE full-grown Rabbits in your artificial Warren, are now in perfection, especially those that were gelt, which will be extremely large, and their Skins of good Value, for this Month the Skins are what are call'd whole Skins; and the Fur of the wild grey sort, is good for the Hat-Makers, and the Skins of those call'd Silver-hair'd Rabbits are now fit for dressing, to be exported with their Fur on: They are at the first hand about a Guinea *per* Dozen.

THIS is a good Season for making of Bacon and pickled Pork. Also put up Swine to fatten: And 'tis also a proper time to smoak and dry Beef, which will keep a long time.

YOU may sell off such Hogs and Poultry as are fit for the Markets, for they will now be in pretty good case, thro' the help of the Woods and the Barn-door.

YOUR Fish are now of good Value in the *London* Markets, as indeed they are in most Months in the Year, provided we do not take any that have just spawned. Continue still to feed your Ponds.

CARRY Straw and such like into Ways and wet Places to rot, which will help your stiff Grounds.

THE Tasker is now very busy in the Barn in threshing of all sorts of Corn; but let him not now thresh any Store to lay up in the Grainary; but all should go to Market, for Grain will not keep well in damp Weather. However, such Corn or Pulse as we keep by us ready thresh'd, should be often turn'd, and now and then sifted, to keep it from growing foisty.

YOU may now spread your Ant-Hills in your Meadows, that the Frosts may destroy the Ants.

NOW mend your Fences about the Corn-Grounds. At this Season you must take

take care to keep your Bees warm, and feed your weak Stocks ; you must thatch the common Hives with Straw, and may put some dry Straw between, and upon your Box-Hives in the Apiary.

NOW you begin to manufacture your Hemp and Flax, and the Farmer's principal Business is to attend the Markets.

YOU may now cut Coppice or Spring-Wood, for Faggots, Bavins, or other Uses.

SET Traps to destroy Vermin, and beware of Foxes, who will begin to be very busy about your Poultry.

CUT Drains to carry off the standing Waters in your Corn-Fields, if that was not sufficiently taken care of before the Corn was sown ; and see that all Drains are now open and free, for fear of Floods.

FEED your Dove-Cot Pidgeons, for there is little Food for them abroad.

ABOUT this time of the Year, the Goat commonly goes to Rutt, and will go as long with Kid, as the Sheep goes with Lamb ; *viz.* twenty Weeks, or five Lunary Months ; but will sometimes
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take the Rutt sooner. This is a very profitable Creature, even more than the Sheep itself; for which reason, I much wonder, it is not more frequently bred in *England*; especially since we have so much mountainous Land, where the Goat chiefly delights. The shortest Grass is much the best for it, or where the Land is encumbered with low Bushes, such as are chiefly found growing among Rocks or stony places, the Goat will feed and keep in good state of Health; for they brouse, like the Deer, upon Twigs and Boughs of Trees within their reach. There are two or three sorts of this Creature, that I have seen kept in *England* as Curiosities: The Difference consists chiefly in their Size, or in the Colour of their Hair: the largest kind, which has commonly white Hair, is judged to be the most hardy sort, for enduring of Cold; and the Beard of the Male generally grows to so great a Length, that it is used for making of Peruques, to mix with human Hair; and sometimes serves to make Peruques alone: this is sold for so good a Price, if the Length and Colour be good, that I have been told, the Hair of one Year, from a single He-Goat, has been sold for the full Price of a good Sheep, so that the Male will pay for his keeping; and the Females of this, and the other Sorts, are so

so prolific, that they sometimes will bring three, four, or five Kids at a Birth; but never fewer than two, that ever I heard of. They are extremely given to Vencry, and begin very young to breed; even beginning to rutt with their own Dams at six or seven Months old. The large Sort is the best for eating, while they are Kids of four or five Months old; but the smaller Kind may be eaten at a Year old, being much nearer Venison than the large Sort: I have eaten of both Sorts prepared in the Venison way, both roasted, and in Pasty; but the smaller Sort is much the finer Meat. However, to eat of either, while they are Kids, we shall find them full as good as a young Fawn; and they should be prepared for the Table in the same manner. These are very valuable for their Milk, which is extraordinary rich, and from whence are made Cheeses of great worth, after the manner of *Cheshire* Cheeses: The Skins are of much greater Value than those of Sheep, and may be prepared like those of Fallow Deer, to be of a soft and gentle nature, and yet strong as Doe-Skin. Of the shorter Hair are made Ropes which endure a long time, and will not rot, even in salt Water, nor will easily take fire; so that they may, if they are not already used about Shipping, be of great service in our Fleets. If we

purchase a Flock of these Creatures, as one may well enough meet with about *Carnarvonshire*, or in some Parts of *Flintshire*, and *Merionethshire* in *North Wales*, it is thought adviseable to buy them together, and not from several Flocks; for they agree much better, and thrive much better, by being the Breed of one Flock, than otherwise.

IN the purchasing of this Sort of Cattle, it has been remark'd, that if the Goat will drink on the Day of Purchase, he is in good Health; for when he is otherwise, it is observ'd he will avoid Drink. Their Distempers come suddenly upon them, and without present Remedy, are for the most part incurable, and soon carry them off.

IT is remarkable, that the Goat draws not its Breath at the Nostrils, like other Cattle, but at the Ears.

IF our Flock is in good Health, they will bring forth twice in a Year, especially the smaller Sort of them. The early Inclination to Venery of the Goat, even while he is yet suckled by the Dam, renders their Life short; so that at five or six Years old, they are too feeble to be productive: So at five Years old, we must
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not depend either on the Male or Female to breed from.

IT is to be observ'd in the breeding of this kind of Cattle, that we should have great regard to the distinguishing between our breeding Cattle; the Goats of one and two Years old, must not be suffer'd to breed up their Young, for it will weaken them too much, but those of three Years and four Years have Strength enough to bring up their Young. The Kids from the Goats of one and two Years should be taken from the Dams, the first at a Month, and the other at two Months at farthest, and will be then fit for killing, or may be fed with Cows-Milk, and browzed for a Month longer. The Kids will begin to browse on green Twigs very soon after they are brought forth, and should, if there is opportunity, always have the Benefit of such Food.

PLINY tells us, that after the third Year the Goat is not fit to breed from; but we have reason to judge that the Goats of the Country he liv'd in must be different from ours in many particulars; for there are many Varieties abroad towards the South Parts of *Europe* and in *Asia*, as well as in *Barbary*, which were familiar to him; nay, even the Antelope is a kind

of Goat with upright Horns, and the Creatures in such hot Countries are always sooner mature, and have shorter Lives than the Creatures bred in colder Countries. So that his Goats, admitting they were the same with ours, might sooner finish their breeding-time in the hot Countries than in our colder Climates. He says indeed, that they begin to rut at seven Months old; and that we find to be true of those that are kidded with us about the end of *March*, or in *April*, by means of the strong invigorating Food which they have then, and in the following Months; but those which happen to be kidded at the end of the Summer, do not prove so forward by a Month or two.

A curious Gentleman observ'd, that the first Rutting comes to no good; the second is something to the purpose; the third very good, as likewise the fourth and fifth; the sixth indifferent, and the seventh good for nothing.

THE sort of Goat without Horns, or such as are called Pollards, are much commended for giving more Milk than the others; and besides, those with Horns are often mischievous. *Columella* recommends the Pollard-Goat for the warm mild Countries, and such as have Horns
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for the colder Regions. There is, indeed, an advantage in the horned which is not in the other, because one may know their Age by the Circles about their Horns; and it is said, that the horned Goat is much hardier than the other, and longer-liv'd.

IT has been reported by some of the antient Writers, that the Goat can see as well by Night as in the Day. I think it would be well worth the Enquiry of the Curious in Anatomy, what Similitude there is between the Eye of the Goat, the Cat, the Owl, and such like; for the more Examples we have of this sort, the better may we judge of Nature's Works.

NUTIANUS tells us, of his own knowledge, a remarkable piece of Craft in the Goat, *viz.* That two of them met upon a long and narrow Bridge, which, by means of its straitness, would not suffer them to pass by one another, nor to turn, or go backward, neither could they jump off, by reason of a rapid deep Stream that run under the Bridge; to overcome which Difficulties, one of them lay down, while the other pass'd over his Body.

OF this Cattle, we find small Flocks better than great ones, because large Flocks of this sort of Cattle are subject to breed

the Murrain, and when it once appears in one, the whole Flock will unavoidably be tainted with it. About fifty in a Flock is judged to be enough of the large Goats, but of the smaller sorts about fourscore, or an hundred at most.

THEY should by no means be kept in moist or damp places, for they are subject to a Distemper much like the Ague, and also to a pestilential Distemper, which once seizing upon them, will carry off the Flock in a few days. This Infection chiefly comes upon them where they feed in too rank Pasture. However, if you are watchful enough to find when the first or second of the Flock is taken with this Infection, bleed all the rest immediately, and suffer them not to feed till the heat of the Day is over; which you may prevent by shutting them up, having first kill'd the infected Goats, and bury'd them deep in the Earth. But if after this your whole Flock should perish, bring not into the same place too quickly any fresh Goats, lest they take the Distemper; but first let the Air be purify'd. These are, in my Opinion, so like the Antilope in every respect, both in Make of Body, in Flesh, in Hair, and in their durable Horns, that I judge whatever Medicine or Food will agree with one, will agree with the other. The Antilope will eat the
Leaves

Leaves of dry Tobacco, which recovers him when he is sick, and I am of opinion the Goat will do the same. If it happens to prove so, I am persuaded it may prevent any Infection spreading among a Flock of Goats. I have seen the breeding of the Antilope in *England*, which is the same with the Goat, and the time of the Female's Pregnancy all one. As I remember, her late sacred Majesty Queen ANNE had a Male and Female Antilope of the small sort that bred at *Kensington*, but it was the first Year of their breeding, and there were but two Kids at a Birth; but in another place I have known four at a Birth. The only difference between the Horns of the Antilope and the Goat, is, that the Antilope has twisted upright Horns, and the Goat twisted curled Horns.

THERE is one Distemper which sometimes attacks the Goat, which is a kind of Dropsy; the Cure of which is, to launce the Skin a little under the Shoulder, by which the Humour will discharge itself; and let the Goat chiefly feed upon dry Meat, and browse where the Black-Thorn or Sloe-Bush is pretty common. As for the Wound, it may be healed with Tar. But I have said enough of the Management of the Goat in this Month. It would be well if that sort of Cattle were increased
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in *England*, as well as the Antilope; only it may be observ'd, that the warmer parts of *England* will do best for the Antilope, when it is first introduced among us: The Breed will grow more hardy than the Dams, and the second Generation more hardy than the first, and the third than the second, till at length in about seven Generations they will be as natutal to our Climate, as if they had been originally the Growth of this Country. What confirms me in this Opinion, is an Observation I had from the learned and curious *Charles Dubois* Esq; concerning the Naturalizing of Plants. That Gentleman was pleased to observe to me, that by long Experience he has found, that however tender a foreign Plant may be at its first coming to *England*, the Seed of that Plant which ripens in this Country shall produce Plants of a much hardier nature than the Mother-Plant, and the Seeds ripen'd from them will bring more hardy Plants than those they came from; and so on, till they at last come to bear our Climate without Shelter. Of this, Mr. *Dubois* has many Instances in his fine Collection of foreign Plants at *Mitcham* in *Surrey*. And so it is in the Breeding of all Creatures which have their Origin in the warmer Climes, and are brought to us. If they come from a very hot Country, we must use them with Care
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and Tendernefs at the firft, and be careful to fhelter them in fevere Seasons, and warm them with Food of good Nourifhment in the colder times of the Year. But the Breed of thefe, when they once come to gather Strength, will require lefs Care than their Dams; and the following Breeds will proportionably grow ftronger every Generation, till at length our Climate will become as pleafant and agreeable to them, as the Climate they were firft brought from; and in the fixth or feventh Generation perhaps rather more, if we were to try them by carrying fome of our laft Broods back into their original hot Countries.

BUT to return to the Antilope: There are feveral forts of them, as there are of Deer, and the Flefh of thefe is faid to furpafs that of the beft Fallow-Deer. The other Difference, which is very remarkable between the Antilope and the Deer, is, that the Deer has branched Horns, contrary to thofe of the Antilope; and again, the Horns of the Deer drop and are renew'd every Year, and thofe of the Antilope are durable as long as the Creature lives. We may obferve too, that the Rut of the Fallow-Deer is about *Auguft*, and the Fawns are dropt the *May* following; fo that the time of Pregnancy of the Doe or Female Deer is much longer than the Goat or Antilope.

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DECEMBER.



HIS Month is generally attended with hard Frosts, which will mellow such Lands as have been lately turn'd up, or lie fallow.

YOU may now turn up those Lay-Stalls or Heaps of Manure, which you design for the Lands that are to be sown in the Spring; and in frosty Weather you may carry them upon your Land.

NOW if the Weather be frosty, carry such Manure upon your Meadow-Ground as is necessary, and spread it over them.

STREW Ashes and Soot upon such places in your Grass-Grounds, as are mossy.

REVISE your Fences, and make up Gaps to keep Cattle out of your Corn-Grounds.

BREAK Holes every day in the Ice of your Fish-Ponds, to give Air to your Fish,

Fish, and lay some Pease-haulm in those Holes, to keep them from freezing.

CONTINUE to destroy Vermin, especially the *Mole* or *Want*, which now breeds plentifully, and may be found by her Nest; which is an Hill made up of Leaves, Straw, Moss, and Earth, much larger than the common Mole-Hills, and generally may be found in warm dry places.

PUT Swine up to fat, and kill such as you design for Bacon, or pickled Pork.

AND send such Swine as are fit for Pork to the Markets.

THERE are now Turnips for your Sheep; and fodder such Sheep as are upon the Commons with fresh Hay.

NOW give Grains, Turnips, or Clover, or Saintfoine Hay to your Cows, mixing the latter with Barley-Straw, or give your Cows the Haulm of Buck-Wheat and Pease-straw: these will make them full of Milk.

STILL continue to destroy Ant-Hills, by spreading them on the Ground.

NOW put up Poultry to fatten against *Christmas*, for they sell well at that time.

HOUSE

HOUSE your old Cattle, and send the best of those that were bought in at *Michaelmas* to Market.

STILL look after your Drains, and suffer no Water to stand upon your Corn.

SEE that no Hares get into your Saffron Grounds, for they are very fond of feeding upon the green Leaves of it ; and if those are bruised or hurt, it will weaken the Saffron Roots, and spoil the Crop for the next Year. And you may especially expect that your Saffron will now be attack'd by the Hares, because they have little share of green Food ; therefore see that the Fence of Hurdles, which encompasses your Saffron-Grounds, be in good order.

STILL you may cut Coppice and Spring-Woods, and some sorts of Timber, but remember in the fall of Woods, to leave a convenient Number of Standils ; and in the cutting of Coppice or Springs, that you cut no Oak that measures nine Inches in Girt three Foot from the Root, for that is accounted Timber, and is never reckoned as Under-wood.

STILL feed weak Stocks of Bees.

NOW

NOW is the time for the Farmer to look over all his Instruments of Husbandry, and put them all in repair; for if the next Month happens to prove fair and open, as it has been lately, he will be troubled to get the Instruments in order, which he will then want to use.

FEED now your Dove-Cot Pidgeons, for they have no Food abroad.

PARSNIPS may now be taken out of the Ground for sale; and there are now Turnips, Carrots, and Potatoes for the Markets; and about the end, Poultry of all Sorts, Rabbits, and all sorts of Cattle for the Butcher: Besides which, there is Grain of every kind, and Fodder of all sorts, which bring the industrious Farmer Gold for the reward of his Labour.

AND I now leave him to conclude the Year in Hospitality and harmless Mirth, and to begin the New-Year with Courage and Conduct, that the End may be crown'd with Riches.

F I N I S.

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